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# ARAB TIMES

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NO. 7738 MONDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1989/JAMADUL AWWAL 13, 1410 AH 20 PAGES 150 FILLS

## Envoys discuss Lebanon in Iraq

BAGHDAD, Dec 10, (Agencies): Arab peacekeepers held talks with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein in Baghdad today before flying to Paris to pursue their quest for lasting peace in Lebanon.

The Foreign Ministers of Saudi Arabia and Algeria arrived in Iraq last night with Arab League envoy Lakhdar Brahimi after holding talks with Syrian leaders in Damascus.

Iraq backs Lebanon's defiant Christian leader Michel Aoun while Syria supports the newly-elected Lebanese government of President Elias Hrawi, who has been rejected by Aoun.

An Arab diplomat said Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal and his Algerian counterpart Ahmed Ghazali discussed with Saddam the Arab League's latest efforts to win a lasting peace in Lebanon.

No details of the talks were revealed.

Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, who has more than 45,000 troops in Lebanon, was quoted by the Syrian news agency Sana yesterday as telling the mediators that force would probably be needed to oust Aoun.

**Force**  
 France and the United States are among countries which have counselled against the use of force against Aoun and his 15,000-strong army in Lebanon's Christian enclave.

Prince Saud told reporters when he left Damascus that the Arab peace team wanted to remove any obstacles to the peace plan under which Hrawi was elected and help his government consolidate its authority.

Fighting erupted in Beirut today shortly after President Hrawi was quoted as saying that Syrian troops would leave parts of Lebanon as soon as he had overcome the resistance of Aoun.

The clashes involved Aoun's troops in the Christian enclave and Syrian-backed Muslim militiamen on the Green Line splitting the capital into Christian and Muslim sectors, security sources said.

The two sides battled with machineguns, rocket-propelled grenades and mortars, but there were no immediate reports of casualties, they said.

Hrawi told Ad-Diyar newspaper, based in Christian East Beirut, that there were several mediators between him and Aoun, but mediation efforts were going nowhere.

Hrawi said: "I was elected President to unite Lebanon and to extend the state's sovereignty. It will be done either peacefully or by the state's forces to suppress the rebellious."

He has threatened to oust Aoun by force but said only the Lebanese army would be used. Syria has offered to provide troops, if requested, for a military assault.

Hrawi, a Christian elected on Nov 24 two days after his predecessor was assassinated, acknowledged that an Arab-sponsored peace accord ratified by Parliament "did not satisfy the aspirations of any faction in Lebanon."

Hrawi told Ad-Diyar he wanted to include all militia commanders in his government, including Samir Geagea, leader of the 10,000-strong Christian Lebanese Forces (LF).

**Weather**

CLOUDS will increase gradually with light to moderate south easterly wind.  
 State of sea: Slight to moderate  
 High water: 11.30 am, 10.00 pm  
 Low water: 5.00 am, 4.00 pm  
 Sunrise: 6.32 am  
 Sunset: 4.50 pm  
 Maximum temperatures recorded:  
 Kuwait: 21°C 70°F  
 Ahmedi: 20°C 68°F  
 Falaika: 20°C 68°F  
 Minimum temperatures recorded:  
 Kuwait: 7°C 45°F  
 Ahmedi: 11°C 52°F  
 Falaika: 11°C 52°F  
 Maximum temperatures expected:  
 Kuwait: 21°C 70°F  
 Ahmedi: 20°C 68°F  
 Falaika: 20°C 68°F  
 Maximum humidity recorded:  
 Kuwait: 35 per cent  
 Ahmedi: 45 per cent  
 Falaika: 74 per cent

## Arab Times Special Report

# When love is lost ... and life takes over

By Jadranka Porter  
 Arab Times staff

AS the world gets smaller mixed marriages are becoming more common. But the merits of inter-marriages are being questioned as a greater number of reports of marital disputes reach the public.

Cultural and religious differences are often ignored by partners, or at best not taken seriously at the beginning. But when difficulties in marriage start arising these become the controlling factor in what happens to spouses and children during the divorce drama. This is why spouses whenever possible, choose their own country to seek a legal solution.

Partners in mixed marriages run into similar problems as other couples. Their marriages come under strain when there are family pressures, verbal and physical abuse, alcoholism, avarice or deepening of religious conviction by one of the partners. As spouses take opposing views of how to deal with these problems they move towards a final break-up.

In the absence of an international legal structure to take care of inter-cultural marital break-ups they seek to solve their disputes through courts in their own countries. This has often left one of the partners dissatisfied and has even led to international child abduction.

The problems related to inter-marriages have reached such proportions that governmental agencies have taken steps to find ways of how best to solve them. In 1984 the Kuwaiti government, for example, resorted to a drastic measure of precluding elderly married Kuwaiti men from marrying Egyptians. In the United States Senator Alan Dixon is introducing legislation to make international parental child abduction a federal crime punishable by a fine and/or up to three years in jail.

**Hardship**  
 Society tends to focus on the problems of parents and less on the psychological hardship of children. Although parents have distressing stories to tell and undoubtedly suffer, the only true victims in marriage break-ups

## Editor's note

Two people meet. They fall in love, and perhaps against all odds, they marry. Suddenly the loving stops and a marriage 'made in heaven' turns quickly into the private hell of divorce.

It's a common story in every society. But when the couple are from different cultural and religious backgrounds, the pain of separation is often compounded by complex battles for child custody.

In a special report that will run in the Arab Times throughout the week, we try to shed some light on the men and women involved and the legal system that must, in the end, try to put the pieces back together knowing that broken lives can never be made whole.

We have spoken with parents, legislators psychologists and finally with real victims of — love gone wrong — the children. We hope that a fresh awareness of the issues involved in these situations will lead to better solutions to the problems that regrettably are likely to recur again and again.

are children.

One of them is Mary a bright teenager who lives with her Arab father in the Gulf. Mary is looking for her British mother whom she does not remember. She was kidnapped by her grandfather

and brought to the Gulf when she was one and a half years old. Her search so far has been futile. An innocent victim in an international tug-of-war, Mary is angry, hurt and confused. She is near bursting point as she cries:



The agony

"I want my mother."

Mary's cry is symbolic of the ordeal that children, the innocent and tragic victims of lost love, endure. Bombarded by conflicting messages from their parents and suffering from

emotional ambivalence these children live a nightmare," says Kuwaiti psychologist Dr Marwan S. Al Mutawa.

Locked in a conflict, the parents claim their custody battles are meant to ensure their

children's well-being. In fact, they inflict untold damage and pain on their offspring, said the psychologist.

A small army of people, social (Continued on Page 15)



## Nasty Stalin

Demonstrators show a picture of former Soviet dictator Josef Stalin with eye patch and Nazi-band on his arm during a pro-democracy rally in Bulgaria. (Reuter wirephoto) See story on Page 7.

## Beg vows to stay out of politics

# Day of coups over

SARGODHA, Pakistan, Dec 10, (Reuter): Pakistan's army chief pledged today that the day of military coups — there was over and he sought no role in government.

Speaking to reporters during Pakistan's biggest-ever military manoeuvres, General Mirza Aslam Beg said the army was dedicated to forging itself into a formidable fighting force and had no ambitions to meddle again in politics.

"If I had any political objectives I would have been sitting in my cantonment (barracks) scheming and planning," Beg said.

Pakistan's history has been punctuated by army coups and periods of martial law, but Beg has played a major stabilising role.

There were fears the army would take over after Zia died in an unexplained air crash, but Beg made it clear he favoured holding the elections that brought Benazir Bhutto to power.

Briefing reporters at the control headquarters for the Zarb-e-Momin exercises near Sargodha, he said the army "is not going to repeat the same history again."

# Kashmir to free militants

## Govt bows down to save minister's kidnapped daughter

SRINAGAR, Dec 10, (Agencies): The Kashmir government has agreed to release five detained militants in exchange for the freedom of the Indian interior minister's kidnapped daughter, a senior official said today.

The official, who declined to be identified, said intermediaries trying to free Rubia Sayeed, 23, had been told the government of the north Indian state would bow to the main demand of separatists who kidnapped her and free the militants.

The officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said negotiations had reached a delicate and crucial stage.

One official said the militants wanted assurances that elite government commandos would not strike after the young woman was released. The government, meanwhile,

wanted guarantees she would be released unharmed and that they wouldn't attempt another kidnapping, the official said.

The kidnap drama is the first major test for the national government of Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh, sworn in a week ago. Multi-Mohammed Sayeed, a Kashmiri and the first Muslim appointed to the powerful Home (Interior) Ministry, took up his job only on Tuesday.

The official told Reuters that once the offer was accepted negotiators would move on to discuss details of the swap.

But he added: "The trouble is that no responsible member of the militant organisation has come forward to deal with the offer."

# 'I'll never let evil triumph'

## Cory vows to punish culprits

BATANGAS CITY, Philippines, Dec 10, (AP): President Corazon Aquino, having survived the gravest challenge to her administration, vowed today never to "let evil triumph against democracy."

Rebel soldiers yesterday surrendered their last stronghold at an air base at Cebu city, ending the sixth and bloodiest attempt to oust Mrs Aquino.

Air Force chief Maj. Gen. Jose de Leon said the rebel leader at the Mactan air base, Brig. Gen. Jose Comendador, surrendered late Saturday to regional commander Brig. Gen. Renato Palma and was under investigation.

Mrs Aquino today travelled by helicopter to Batangas City, 80 kms (50 miles) south of Manila, for the funeral of Maj. Daniel Alesna. Alesna's F-5 jet was shot down on Dec 1 during an air raid on rebel positions at the Sangley Point air-naval base, southwest of the capital.

Speaking at a gymnasium, Mrs Aquino said: "I promise you that I will continue to serve the Filipino people, and I will offer every moment of my life, and I shall never let evil triumph."

About 200 presidential security guards surrounded the gymnasium and snipers were stationed on the roofs of nearby buildings.

Mrs Aquino told reporters later that about 3,000 of the 160,000-member armed forces had joined the mutiny.

"Only 2 per cent of the armed forces were against us but still we

**Cory's last chance**  
 LEADERS of the failed rebellion said they will give Aquino one last chance to 'shape up' and carry out urgent reforms before they strike again.

In a chilling statement released to news agencies, the mutineers said they did not want to kill Aquino despite ample opportunity to do so and claimed they were pleased with what they described as a decisive victory in the coup attempt.

(See Page 2)

have to make sure that justice is done, that those who are guilty will be meted out the full penalties," Mrs Aquino said.

It was Mrs Aquino's first trip outside the capital since the beginning of the coup attempt, which by its resolution Saturday had left at least 113 people dead and more than 581 wounded.

Brig. Gen. Oscar Florendo, who gave the revised casualty figures in Manila today, also said the military suffered damages amounting to 50 million pesos

(\$2.4 million) while civilians lost 25 million pesos (\$1.2 million) in properties.

About 400 troops had held the Mactan air base at Cebu city, 560 kms (350 miles) south of Manila, since Dec 1.

After Mrs Aquino announced their surrender Saturday, most of the rebel soldiers who had held the base left for Mindanao island, where they were headquartered. The mutineers — six officers and 114 enlisted men — arrived today in Cagayan de Oro, said Maj. Virgilio Ibarra, spokesman for the regional command.

He said they belonged to the 20th and 23rd infantry battalions based in Agusan del Norte province. They arrived with weapons and ammunition.

Palma, the government's regional military chief, refused to give details of surrender terms, but said he would recommend no charges be brought against the rebel soldiers because he said they had fired no shots.

Florendo, chief of the military's civil relations service, said a total of 1,485 rebel troops, including 128 officers, have surrendered. The whereabouts of many rebels remained unclear.

Military officials said lower-ranking officers and enlisted men would be reassigned to other units, as has generally been the

case after previous coup attempts.

The military said three brigadier generals and at least 12 middle-grade officers would be relieved of their duties for joining the coup attempt.

Defence Secretary Fidel Ramos told reporters today that civilians also were involved in the coup attempt but he refused to name them.

"There has always been a civilian advisory or civilian elements because of the matter of financial support, which gave the rebels easy access to media. The support coming from those that allowed their homes and offices to be used as hiding places or safe houses of the rebels made this more than just a military matter," he said.

He said "the biggest job of the government now is to consolidate and to make necessary reforms on the merits or the causes of the rebellion."

The Philippine daily Globe reported today that 40 officers assigned to the army's 4th division resigned their commissions to show solidarity with the mutineers and to protest use of US F-4 Phantom jets to fly air cover for loyal forces on the opening day of the coup attempt.

On Friday, more than 100,000 people gathered in Manila in a show of support for Mrs Aquino.

Commandos surrounded the hideout of kidnapers holding Rubia Sayeed today, police sources said.

The state chief secretary Moosa Raza, said India's new government hopes to resolve its first crisis without violence.

However, he added: "If necessary we will take other drastic actions."

Officials who spoke on condition of anonymity said talks were continuing with the militants, but a solution seems difficult because the kidnappers now are demanding that the government release seven of their jailed comrades in exchange for Rubia.

"If by Monday 7 pm (1330 GMT) our demands are not accepted, we will throw her body in the municipal limit of Srinagar," the kidnappers said in an Urdu-language statement to today's newspapers.

Earlier, they said they wanted five militants freed.

The abductors also have threatened to kidnap relatives of police officers if their friends are not released.

Officials said two local journalists and two paroled militants intervened on behalf of the government and were negotiating with the Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front.

The Kashmir official said a problem in freeing the five was that one, Abdul Hamid Sheikh, was still ill in hospital after being shot by police in an encounter five weeks ago.

It was not clear whether Sheikh was fit to be moved, he said.

Police sources said a journalist and an influential Muslim leader, whom they would not identify, were acting as intermediaries.

A police spokesman admitted progress was slow.

"The JKLF has not so far authorised negotiations. They are just giving press notes to news agencies. Nobody from their side has come forward openly to talk to the government," he said.

Pakistan-based JKLF leader Amanullah Khan appealed to his men not to carry out the threat "until we reach a conclusion and give them a clear directive."

Pakistan has appealed to the Kashmir Liberation Front to release the kidnapped daughter of Indian home minister on humanitarian grounds.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said today the appeal had been made on a request from the Indian government.



Dalai Lama receives the 1989 Nobel peace prize from Egi Aarvik. (Reuter wirephoto)

## Laureates receive awards in glittering ceremony

# Nobel peace prize tribute to Gandhi too

OSLO, Dec 10, (UPI): Norway's Nobel peace prize committee said today its 1989 award to Tibet's Dalai Lama was a tribute to the memory of India's advocate of non-violence, Mahatma Gandhi.

"People have occasionally wondered why Mahatma Gandhi was never awarded the Nobel peace prize," said Nobel committee chairman Egi Aarvik in his awarding speech to Tenzin Gyatso, Tibet's god king who lives in exile in India.

"The present Nobel committee can with impunity share this surprise, while regarding this year's award of the prize as in part a tribute to the memory of Mahatma Gandhi,"

Aarvik said. Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi began his political career as a lawyer in South Africa where he propounded his philosophy of non-violence to counter racial discrimination and social inequality there.

His non-violent campaigns, marked by civil disobedience and several hunger strikes are widely credited with having forced Britain to relinquish India as a colony in 1947.

In today's peace ceremony Aarvik said it was only natural to compare the Dalai Lama with Gandhi.

"Mahatma Gandhi was one of this century's greatest protagonists of peace, and the

Dalai Lama likes to consider himself one of Gandhi's successors," said Aarvik.

Accepting the prize, the Dalai Lama also paid tribute to Gandhi.

"I accept the prize as a tribute to the man who founded the modern tradition of non-violent action for change — Mahatma Gandhi," said the Dalai Lama.

"His life taught and inspired me," he said.

In a glittering ceremony, laden with tradition and punctuated with trumpet fanfares, Sweden's King Carl XVI Gustav today presented the 1989 Nobel prizes in science and literature to six American and three European laureates.

# Manila starts manhunt

Rebels give Cory one last chance to 'shape up'

MANILA, Dec 10, (Agencies): Top military officials launched a massive manhunt today for renegade officers involved in the bloody coup attempt that almost toppled President Corason Aquino while opposition leaders renewed their call for her resignation.

Leaders of the failed rebellion said they will give Aquino one last chance to "shape up" and carry out urgent reforms before they strike again.

In a chilling statement released to news agencies, the mutineers said they did not want to kill Aquino despite ample opportunity to do so and

claimed they were very pleased with what they described as a "decisive victory" in the coup attempt.

Frustrated by the escape of Army Col Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan, the orchestrator of the rebellion that left 83 people dead and devastated the economy, armed forces Chief Gen. Renato de Villa also ordered a "one-on-one check of officers suspected of doubtful loyalty."

The crackdown followed the surrender yesterday of the last 400 rebel holdouts who had threatened to blow up 32 military aircraft at Mactan air base 350 miles (560 km) south of Manila.

## Imelda in California to examine documents

HONOLULU, Dec 10, (UPI): Former Philippine first lady Imelda Marcos left Honolulu to spend the weekend with her daughter in northern California and examine documents for her upcoming racketeering trial in New York.

Marcos left on northwest flight 82 Friday night and was to stay with her daughter, Irene Araneta, in Woodside, California, about 30 miles (50 km) south of San Francisco, family spokesman Roger Peyman said.

"She will stay there for three or four days," Peyman said. "She plans to sit down with her lawyers to look at the different documents they have in their offices relating to the March trial in New York."

Imelda boarded the plane just a few hours after US Immigration authorities lifted a travel ban to allow the visit.

The trip marks only the second time Imelda has left Hawaii since she accompanied her deposed husband, Ferdinand, into exile in February 1986. She flew to New York for arrangement in October 1988.

The Marcoses, Saudi Arabian financier Adnan Khashoggi, and seven others were indicted in October 1988 in New York on federal racketeering charges accusing them of defrauding US Banks of \$165 million by refinancing US properties purchased with \$103 million plundered from the Philippine Treasury.

The surrender ended the nine-day insurrection, the worst of six against Aquino since she became President in February 1986.

With Aquino's popularity waning amid attacks of indecisiveness and corruption, even her staunchest supporters said she must demonstrate she is still capable of governing the country by swiftly punishing the mutinous officers and tackling the problems that fuelled their revolt.

The country is struggling with widespread rural poverty and a \$28 billion foreign debt. Complaints about lawlessness, a shortage of public transportation, a worsening electrical power situation that has caused massive blackouts, and a general breakdown in basic services have seriously eroded Aquino's performance record.

Much to the embarrassment of the military, Honasan, who also led the August 1987 coup, managed to escape during the five-day rebel takeover of the Makati financial centre when the mutineers occupied 22 highrises, trapping 10,000 tourists and residents. When loyalist troops recaptured the posh area and the 1,500 insurgents surrendered on Thursday, Honasan was not among them.

De Villa said Commodore Domingo Calajate, head of the armed forces logistics command, Brig. Gen. Edgardo Abenina, a regional commander, and Navy Capt Feli Turingan were also among the high-ranking mutineers who evaded detection.

"We are working on a list of officers who are suspected of doubtful loyalty and will take action against these people," De Villa said.

While describing Aquino as "irrelevant," the rebel statement said they were prepared to give her administration a last chance. "Everyone from the President down to the lowest clerk must shape up and address the fundamental problems of our people," it said.

"After our demonstration of strength in the past few days, the political leaders should change the way they manage the affairs of this country and heed the call of the professional soldier for far-reaching reforms," the statement said. The insurgents specifically complained about low pay and favouritism in promotions.

The rebel leaders also stressed the coup attempt was a military movement and denied "the myth that this effort was sponsored by politicians."

Senate minority leader Juan Ponce Enrile lashed out at Aquino for her "unpresidential" remarks linking him and Vice President Salvador Laurel to the rebellion.

"She should wake up, resign, and get out of office," said Enrile, former defence minister under the late president Ferdinand Marcos who was toppled in the "people power" revolution that spiralled Aquino into the No. 1 office.

Enrile charged Aquino's administration "has lost its legitimacy to govern, having abdicated its sovereignty and independence by calling on military intervention by the United States to maintain itself in power."

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## Pan Am trail leads to Belgrade

LONDON, Dec 10, (Reuters): Scottish police have flown to Yugoslavia to trace a Palestinian, they suspect of supplying explosives and detonators to the bombers of a Pan Am airliner, a British newspaper said today.

The Sunday Times said Mobdi Goben, 46, was suspected of involvement in the bombing of Pan Am flight 103 over the Scottish town of Lockerbie last December, in which 270 people were killed.

The paper said Goben was a member of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command and nicknamed "the professor" because of his alleged bomb-making expertise. The PFLP-GC has denied any link with the bombing.

The report said two Scottish detectives flew to Belgrade last week to question friends and relatives of Goben. No Scottish police spokesman was available for comment on the report.

The Sunday Times said Goben was wanted by West German and Yugoslav police. It said he narrowly escaped capture three weeks before the bombing when police discovered a weapons cache including semtex plastic explosive in a raid on his home.

Lockerbie police are currently seeking to question another Palestinian, Mohamed Abu Talb, who is detained in Sweden pending the outcome of an unrelated trial for a series of bomb attacks.

## Iran to display rare carpet

NICOSIA, Dec 10, (Reuters): A rare Persian carpet which took 35 Iranian craftsmen four years to weave is being flown to Switzerland for exhibition, Iran's news agency IRNA said today.

IRNA, received in Nicosia, said the main carpet, measuring 763 square metres (8,200 square feet) and weighing three tonnes, would be on show in Locarno next week.

The agency said the wool and silk carpet had not yet been valued, adding that Italy, Switzerland, and several Arab sites had already offered to buy it.

## Weapons destroyed

The Sri Lankan Army yesterday destroyed a large cache of arms and ammunition captured from the hideouts of the southern Sinhalese extremist Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna JVP (People's Liberation Front), a high-ranking military official said.

These weapons, the official said, have now been declared beyond repair.

The arms which were captured were destroyed yesterday in the presence of media personnel, by using a steamroller, the military official said, adding they were used by the JVP to launch their attacks in various parts of the island.

The official, explaining the procedure said according to existing government regulations, all weapons "crushed" have to be dumped in mid-sea.

There is yet another large cache of arms and ammunition to be thus destroyed and once it is done, the entire load would be dumped in the sea, he went on. Picture shows a steam roller crushes rows of guns at Colombo's army headquarters. The weapons had been recovered from leftwing Sinhalese rebels. (Reuters wirephoto)

## Lanka rebels blow up jeep

COLOMBO, Dec 10, (Reuters): Leftwing Sinhalese rebels blew up an army jeep, killing a soldier and two civilians in Sri Lanka's Southern Province today, military sources said.

They said six injured soldiers were airlifted for treatment to Colombo from Dickwella, 160 km (100 miles) away, where the landmine explosion occurred.

The leftwing People's Liberation Front, fighting to oust the government from southern strongholds, was blamed for the attack. Government spokesman said yesterday that a jeep was blown up and another wounded when from rebels fired at the house of an acting minister in northeast Polonnaruwa district.

It said the attack on acting Minister of Irrigation, HGP Nelsa's house occurred yesterday.

A rebel was killed and a policeman injured in a shootout at Hambantota in the south, also yesterday.

In the eastern town of Addalachenai yesterday Muslims buried with religious rites the decomposed bodies of 12 people killed last month by an illegal Tamil militia.

Residents said the 12, eight young members of a civilian volunteer force and four parents, had been shot by the Tamil National Army (TNA) and buried on the beach at Pandirippu in eastern Batticaloa district.

The TNA, which the government says was trained by the Indian Army, has been attacking police stations since Indian troops pulled out of Batticaloa and eastern Ampara districts in the past six weeks.

The residents said relatives of the dead, helped by another Tamil guerrilla group, dug out the bodies and brought them to their hometown for a proper burial.

Indian troops have been in the northeast region of the island since July 1987 to help end a Tamil separatist revolt.

Within the last twenty four hours a total of forty eight unidentified dead bodies have been found by the security forces in several areas of Sri Lanka. The largest number of dead bodies have been found in the Kandy district in the central province of Sri Lanka, residents and security sources said.

The hill country has been the main area where dead bodies are being found during the last three months, according to security forces spokesman, "who is killing whom we cannot say."

## Pak judges' row

## Appeal pulled out

ISLAMABAD, Dec 10, (Kuma): The federal government of the Pakistan People's Party today withdrew its appeal from the Supreme Court seeking the court's opinion of the powers of the president to appoint judges of the superior courts of the country.

In its appeal to the Supreme Court the federal government had asked to decide whether the president while appointing the judges of the Supreme Court and the four High Courts was bound to act on the advice of the prime minister.

Federal government was of the opinion that it was binding on the president to consult the prime minister on such appointments, but the Punjab provincial government, ruled by the opposition alliance, the Islamic Democratic Alliance, thought it otherwise — that the president was under no obligation to seek the advice of the prime minister.

Request for the withdrawal of the federal appeal came on the heels of an observation by Chief Justice of the Supreme Court Mohammad Haleem. During the hearing of a petition on the question yesterday Haleem observed the advice of the prime minister to discharge his various functions including the appointment of superior judges.

Punjab government had won a favourable decision from the Lahore High Court when it went to the court defending the appointment of 11 judges to the Lahore High Court under a presidential notification. However, a practising lawyer of Lahore, appealed to the court challenging the notification. The federal government filed an appeal later in the Supreme Court.

# The sign of good taste



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## CONDOLENCE

Staff and director of computer  
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(Assistant Director)

on sad demise of his  
**mother**

May God rest her soul in peace

هكذا من الأصل



## PEOPLE AND PLACES

**RADNOR, Pennsylvania:** Bill Cosby is the most successful entertainer in history and will be number one when people look back on television of the 1980s, in the opinion of the editors at TV Guide magazine.

The Cosby Show has been at or near the top of the ratings almost since its debut in 1984, according to the magazine's December 9 issue, and the show "has never depended for its ratings on raunchy (off-colour) gags, violence and put-down stereotypes."

Besides Cosby, among the most-remembered television personalities of the 1980s will be Larry Hagman and Oprah Winfrey, the editors said.

Cosby's half-hour comedy show placed first among the top shows of the decade, which included "Dallas" and "Dynasty," police shows "Hill Street Blues" and "Miami Vice," and "Nightline" and "Saturday Night Live." (AP)

**PENSACOLA, Florida:** Some adjustments had to be made when 9-year-old Ben Williamson entered Pensacola High School's international baccalaureate honours programme after skipping four elementary grades.

His books were too heavy for the freshman to carry by himself, so the school issued him a second set to keep at home.

Ben is allowed to eat lunch in the honour programme office because he is afraid of some of his larger schoolmates and prefers playing checkers there with another student or chess with a retired math professor. (AP)

**KEENE, New Hampshire:** A thief apparently troubled by a guilty conscience returned \$4,500 to a bank after taking the money to buy Christmas gifts, police said.

Flora Bank, New Hampshire reported this week that two bags containing the cash and cheques were missing.

The next day, the bank received a large envelope in the mail containing the cash bags, the cash and a note saying the sender had found the bags outside the post office, opened them and decided to return them.

Police said the package was traced to a 19-year-old man, who was to have put the money in a night deposit box for his employer. The business has decided not to pursue charges, police said. (AP)

**BOSTON, Massachusetts:** Wei'er Kaidi and Li Li, exiled Chinese student leaders, accepted a \$30,000 human rights award but lamented that two of their allies in the spring uprising at Tiananmen Square were still in China.

Rock star Sting presented the 1989 Reebok human rights award to China's crushed student democracy movement, represented by Wei'er and Li during a ceremony Tuesday.

"It is very frightening to me that I live and my children live in a world where governments routinely discard basic human decency and violate human rights," Sting said at the presentation.

Wei'er sent a message to friends still in China, saying, "take care of yourselves when the cold of midnight hits you."

A videotape interview with another student leader, Chai Ling, was flashed on a screen. "She was my best friend in Tiananmen Square," Li said. "Chai Ling was the heart of the democracy movement."

Organisers placed two empty chairs on the stage for Chai, whose name is on a wanted list and Wang Dan, a student leader now in jail. (AP)

**RENO, Nevada:** The editors of a Nevada cookbook claim it is down-home cooking, but some of the recipes came from the US White House — although the Bushes' Mexican mound is not exactly the haute cuisine one expects at state dinners.

The country cookbook by the Nevada Farm Bureau Women's committee consists mainly of Nevadans' recipes dating from the 1890s, and includes instructions from an Indian chief on how to roast a groundhog.

But editor Chris Shney solicited President George Bush, former president Ronald Reagan and their wives for some of their favourites to give the publication national flavour. (AP)

**EVANSVILLE, Indiana:** Waitress Tami Wolf often receives Indiana lottery tickets as tips, but it was never important until a week ago.

A customer dropped a ticket into the tips jar at the tavern where she works and Ms Wolf, 27, took a minute and scratched off the ticket to see if she won anything. Ms Wolf won \$10,000 on the ticket.

The customer who gave her the ticket took it well when Ms Wolf called him over from his pool game to show him the ticket. "His eyes got big and he just smiled and said he was glad I got it," she said. Ms Wolf plans to pay off her bills, buy Christmas presents, save some and buy a few things for. (AP)

## Antiquity theft Gang arrested

**KHALKIS, Greece, Dec 10, (AP):** Police yesterday arrested a gang of antiquity thieves, but said that two priceless Byzantine relics they recovered had been badly damaged. One of the items was a crucifix that according to legend was made of wood from Christ's Cross.

The gang Wednesday stole an ornate gold chest, studded with precious stones and containing the Crucifix, from the megalis Lavras Monastery in the all-male monastic republic of Mount Athos.

The cross and the chest were gifts to the monastery from Nicephorus II Phocas, who ascended to the throne of the Byzantine Empire in 963. The monastery and the Mount Athos community were founded in that year.

A police spokesman said that the chest had been torn apart with pliers and the 65 precious stones imbedded in it — including diamonds, emeralds and rubies — has been smashed into smaller pieces.

He said also that the wooden cross had been cut into five parts with a knife.

The relics are terrible damaged. We will repair them but it will take a long time," said Brother Paul, a monk from a monastery near Khalkis, after assessing the damage.



**La Toya in Istanbul**

US singer La Toya Jackson sister of Michael Jackson performs in a concert in Istanbul, as a part of concert tours in European countries. (Reuters wirephoto)

## Hall of Fame Award Davis honoured

**LOS ANGELES, Dec 10, (UPI):** Entertainer Sammy Davis Jr., his voice gravely from recent throat-cancer surgery, was presented the Hall of Fame Award last night during the 22nd annual NAACP Image Awards.

"I'm surrounded by people who love me and care for me," an emotional Davis said. "This award belongs to one person who has stuck by me for 20 years and has made it through the past 14 weeks (since the cancer surgery). This is for my wife (Alta). She belongs in the Hall of Fame."

Davis, the renowned singer, dancer, musician, mimic, comedian and star of Broadway, Hollywood and Las Vegas billed as "Mr. Entertainment," was diagnosed with throat cancer earlier this fall.

Davis, who turned 64 on Friday, received a two-minute standing ovation after an introduction by actor-director Sidney Poitier. He described Davis as "a small-framed man who for the past 60 years has given his priceless gift to warm our hearts. He is the quintessential performer of the 20th century."



**Hartung dies**

Leading German-born abstract painter Hans Hartung has died, aged 85, at his home in Antibes on the French Riviera on Thursday night. (Reuters wirephoto)

**COGON, Iowa:** Your run-of-the-mill lounge lizard will still be roaming bars, but the Cogon city council intends to decide whether an undersized alligator can frequent a tavern.

A hearing will be held next month to discuss whether Crosby The Alligator can be the mascot of Crosby's Cove, a tavern recently purchased by Crosby's best friend and feeder, Jim Schaefer. (AP)

**LONDON:** The English national opera, hoping to dazzle the senses of its audiences, has added something new to the sights and sounds of its latest production — smells.

Opera buffs who turn out for Sergei Prokofiev's "The Love of Three Oranges" get a little scratch-and-sniff card with six different odours of varying degrees of pleasantness. (AP)

**ST LOUIS, Missouri:** Jellie Iglesias is said to be near settlement with the security guard who claims the singer felled him with a karate blow in 1986.

A civil trial for damages was scheduled Monday in US district court here, but a lawyer for the guard asked that the trial be called off saying the case was close to settlement.

David Wells, a lawyer representing Iglesias, said the settlement was "in the works. But I don't see any reason that it won't be worked out." (AP)

## Killer's father abused family

**MONTREAL, Dec 11 (UPI):** The father of Marc Lepine, the 14-year-old who gunned down 14 women in an anti-feminist rage, beat his wife and children and treated women like servants, divorce papers disclosed yesterday.

"He would speak of love and other things — and out of nowhere I'd get blows to my face," said the killer's mother, Monique Lepine, in testimony at a 1976 divorce hearing.

"I didn't know if I was supposed to be his wife or his servant," she testified.

Sometimes Lepine — then known as Gamil Gharbi — would be beaten bloody, she said.

The father, Algerian-born Rachid Lias Gharbi, "would resort to violence against me and the children for the least reason, to the point of sometimes making (the children's) noses bleed," Lepine's mother said.

"He would stop me from taking them in my arms and consoling them."

The couple separated when Lepine was 7. Lepine took his mother's maiden name when he turned 18.

In a related development, authorities believe a violent pay-television movie may have triggered Lepine's killing frenzy Wednesday evening.

The movie, "Commando Terreur (Terror Squad)," starred Chuck Connors and depicted a group of military-garbed terrorists who broke into a school and killed students in their classrooms.

The movie aired two days before Lepine broke into the Ecole Polytechnique and killed and wounded 27 students before turning the gun on himself.

"Lepine loved war movies," said Jacques Duchesneau, Montreal's organised crime division chief. "These kinds of pictures gave him a thrill."

Officially police have declined to give names of the 15 prominent women listed for assassination in Lepine's three-page suicide note, but sources indicate they include former status of women minister Monique Gagnon Tremblay and Monique Simard, vice president of the confederation of national trade unions. Others listed include sports journalist Danielle Rainville and television commentator Jeanette Bertrand.

"I'm in a state of shock," said Simard. "But I'm not sure what I can do." Others said they may seek police protection now that the names have surfaced.

"You can't discount the idea there may be some other nut who wants to carry out the rest of (Lepine's) mission," acknowledged Duchesneau.

As facts of the massacre begin to emerge, residents expressed anger that police delayed entering the building and male students did nothing more to stop the killer.

"What type of society do we have where a sniper kills women one at a time and nobody lifts a hand to stop him?" asked Jeanette Quassa, a polytechnique student.

"We waited for 20 minutes locked in the computer (room) on the second floor," said a student survivor who asked not to be identified. "After I heard 30 shots I realised, 'There are no police officers here.'"

"Then we got out and some of the police had gone in," she said. "They were all standing crouched with their guns around the outside walls of the building."

Some complained that dozens of male students evacuated the building, ordered away by Lepine, while female students were being killed.

"If only two or three had tried to jump (Lepine) the story might have been much different," said Quassa.

One man — a conservative member of parliament touring the building — attempted to jump from a two-story window when he heard the shots.

"There is a tremendous instinct for self-preservation which takes over," said Duchesneau.

### Location changed

## Walesa film

**BURBANK, California, Dec 10, (AP):** Reforms in Eastern Europe allowed a change in location for the shooting of a movie on the life of Polish leader Lech Walesa, a report says.

The film will be shot in Poland instead of West Germany as originally planned, according to the Hollywood reporter.

The authorised biography of the Nobel peace prize-winning Solidarity leader will be produced by James W. Brubaker and Thom Mount beginning in 1990, Warners and the Mount Co. said in a joint release today announcing the \$20 million film.



**Relatives grieve**

Grieving relatives come to view the caskets Dec 9 at the university where three days ago a gunman shot dead fourteen women in Canada's worst mass murder. (Reuters wirephoto)

### Experts suggest changes in lighting

## Eye fatigue link to VDT

**NEW ORLEANS, Dec 10, (UPI):** Eye-strain, blurred vision, headaches and other problems associated with using video display terminals can be eliminated in most cases by changes in office lighting and the displays themselves, a professor said.

"People perform much better when they look at screens with dark characters on a white background instead of having white characters on a dark background," said James Sheedy, associate professor of the University of California school of optometry and director of the VDT eye clinic.

Sheedy, who addressed the 67th annual meeting of the American Academy of Optometry, said the change must be considered in the design of future VDTs.

Improved design of the terminals and workstations would help solve the growing problem of headaches, eye fatigue and other maladies associated with "VDT syndrome," he said.

Other recommendations included an in-depth analysis of the visual abilities individual workers and special designs for eyeglasses.

"Lighting in offices is often inappropriate for VDT users and causes glare because they are looking straight ahead in the room instead of up and down at their desks," Sheedy said.

Lighting levels should be reduced and lighting designs should be changed to provide indirect lighting.

## American sailors spied for Moscow

**NORFOLK, Virginia, Dec 10, (UPI):** Two navy operators assigned to the tank landing ship USS Fairfax county were being held yesterday on charges they conspired to commit espionage, the navy said.

The two sailors were being held in pre-trial confinement in the Norfolk Navy Brig. They were arrested Dec 1 aboard ship, allegedly caught with secret documents by agents of the Naval Investigative Service, the navy said.

### Amphibious

The sailors were identified as Petty Officer 3rd class Charles Edward Schoof, 29, and Petty Officer 3rd class John Joseph Haeger, 19. Their hometowns were not disclosed. The Fairfax county is assigned to Little Creek naval amphibious base.

"At the present time, it does not appear there were any classified documents passed, but the investigation is still underway," said Lt Larry Thomas, a spokesman for US Atlantic Fleet headquarters in Norfolk.

One of the sailors tried to pass the information to a Soviet agent in Washington, a navy official whose name was not disclosed told the Norfolk Virginian-pilot.

"He talked to them by telephone, but never made it all the way to Washington, where he was to have made contact," the officials said.

### Accused

The sailors both operations specialists, are accused of taking material classified as "secret." Thomas said. The navy classifies information in order of its sensitivity to national defence from "unclassified" to "confidential" to "secret" to "top secret."

Several of the allegedly stolen documents dealt with classified navy publications and radio message traffic, the unidentified source told the Virginian-pilot.

NIS officials would not elaborate on the kind of documents involved or to whom the sailors may have been trying to pass information.

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# Big two urged to contribute to Centam peace

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica, Dec 10, (AP): Costa Rican President Oscar Arias, greeting his counterparts arriving for a Central American summit meeting, urged the United States and the Soviet Union to contribute to peace in the region and refrain from encouraging military offensives.

Arias did not mention them by name yesterday, referring to the "superpowers in and out of the American continent that are two-faced, talking about political solutions while they encourage military offensives."

The Central American presidents during their two-day meeting are seeking an end to armed conflicts in Nicaragua and El Salvador.

"I do not see a solution to the political crisis. Only a miracle would produce an agreement," said a Central American diplomat who arranged the meeting and spoke on condition of anonymity.

The inescapable topics of this meeting must be the explosive relations between Nicaragua and El Salvador and the threat to peace created by the insurgent forces in those countries," Costa Rican Foreign Minister Rodrigo Madrigal Nieto said last week.

El Salvador suspended relations with Managua after it linked its neighbour to a shipment of missiles to leftist guerrillas discovered two weeks ago.

## Latam: hunger fact of daily life

MEXICO CITY, Dec 10, (Reuters): Democratic advances in the 1980s gave unprecedented freedom to millions of Latin Americans but failed to fill their empty bellies and frustrated many of their hopes.

No other region of the world has witnessed such a dramatic expansion of democracy in such a short time. Over the past 10 years 11 Latin American countries with a total population of more than 250 million switched from military rule to representative government.

By the end of this year the last of the old-style military dictators, Chile's Augusto Pinochet, will have begun to bow out after democratic elections on December 14 in which he cannot run.

In Paraguay, Alfredo Stroessner fell in military coup in February after 35 years of iron-fisted rule. His successor, General Andres Rodriguez, made a promise of free elections.

Only Cuba and Panama were under overt authoritarian rule by the end of the decade. When it began, dictatorships were the rule rather than the exception.

Groundswell But, despite such gains, there was a growing groundswell of frustration and disappointment with the fruits of democracy in the 1980s, Latin America's "lost decade" in economic terms.

There is more poverty, misery and hunger now than there was at the beginning of the decade. About 150 million Latins — more than a third of the continent's population — live in poverty today, according to United Nations figures.

Throughout Latin America the buying power of the minimum wage has declined since 1980, with cuts of more than 50 per cent in some countries, including Peru and Mexico. Gross domestic product fell as

Such statistics translate into human misery on a huge scale. For the poor, hunger is a daily fact of life. Malnutrition kills millions of babies throughout Latin America, adequate medical care is often non-existent and social security the exception rather than the rule.

Latin America's worst economic crises in 50 years have prompted a string of warnings that unless there is material progress for the people, democracy may be doomed on a continent with a history of regular swings between representative government and authoritarian rule.

"Democracy wilts in a climate of economic stagnation," Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari said on assuming office late in 1988 after an election campaign that promised greater freedom.

Tested "The virtues of democracy are being tested severely throughout Latin America," Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney said in announcing in October that his country was joining the Organisation of American States.

That empty bellies can threaten the stability even of long-established democracies was driven home in Venezuela this year when more than 200 people died in riots sparked by price increases for bus fares and petrol.

The rises were part of an economic austerity package to repair Venezuela's economy and reduce its foreign debt, at \$32 billion the fourth largest in Latin America after Brazil, Mexico and Argentina.

Overall Latin America owes more than \$420 billion to banks and creditor countries. Repaying the debt takes up so much of the resources of many countries that there is nothing left for social programmes or investment that would spur employment.

"The benefits of democracy must, at times, seem few and far between to young people who face the prospect of a lifetime of work only to pay off interest on a debt owed to financial institutions in developed countries far away," Mulroney said.

Most Latin American analysts agree that a solution to the debt crisis is essential for economic improvement and, in turn, political stability in the young democracies of the region.

As pessimists see it, the pendulum may have swung to its highest democratic point by the end of the '80s before falling back.

In that scenario, Latins disenchanted with the failure will turn to populists and leftist whose mismanagement will lead to turmoil and thus give the military or authoritarian leaders a pretext to "restore order" as they have so often done in the past.

## Cartel agent sent to US

LOS ANGELES, Dec 10, (AP): A man accused of laundering more than \$1 billion for a Colombian cocaine cartel has been extradited from Uruguay to the United States, the FBI said yesterday.

Uruguayan national police turned Raul Silvio Vivas over to FBI agents at a naval base under heavy guard Friday and he was flown to Los Angeles that night, said Thomas Parker, assistant agent in charge of criminal investigations and organised crime activities in Los Angeles.

An alleged key member of the Medellin cartel, which is believed to supply a majority of the cocaine entering the United States, Vivas was a target of a Department of Justice investigation code-named Operation Polar Cap, which has been described as the biggest money-laundering probe in US history.

Vivas, 39-year-old native of Argentina, had been held in a Uruguayan jail since February. His extradition occurred just two days after a devastating terrorist bombing blamed on cocaine traffickers killed dozens and wounded hundreds outside Colombia's police intelligence headquarters.

A group of drug lords calling themselves "The Extraditables" has been waging a terror campaign of bombings and assassinations to force the Colombian government to end its war on the cartel and stop the extraditions.

Vivas was a "badly wanted" fugitive and his extradition "marks yet another turning point in the willingness of the international community, particularly in South America, to work with us in bringing to an end the tyranny and impunity of these drug empires," Parker said.

Operation Polar Cap led to the indictment of Vivas and 30 others in February. The probe allegedly uncovered a bogus gold shipping network dubbed "La Mina," the mine, that laundered about \$1.2 billion of drug money between 1987 and February 1989.

"The charges against Vivas allege that he personally controlled the flow of over \$1 billion of drug money out of the United States to the Medellin drug cartel in Colombia," Parker said.

Eduardo Martinez Romero, a 35-year-old Colombian economist and reputed financial wizard behind the Medellin drug cartel, was sent to Atlanta on Sept 6 to face charges stemming from Polar Cap. He was the first person extradited since the Colombian government began its crackdown on drug traffickers.

## Producer held in sex abuse

NEW YORK, Dec 10, (UPI): Hollywood movie producer David Macleod was behind bars yesterday on charges he lured at least 10 boys to hotel rooms and paid them money for sexual favours, police said.

Authorities said David Macleod was arrested on Friday afternoon in the New York borough of Brooklyn after a three-month joint investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the New York City sexual exploitation of children task force.

Macleod, 45, has worked with actor-director Warren Beatty on a number of movies, including the 1981 film "Reds" and 1987's "Ishtar." Macleod produced the 1987 movie "The Pick-Up Artist."

Macleod was charged with 17 counts of endangering the welfare of children and criminal solicitation for actions that allegedly occurred in the borough of the Bronx involving at least 10 boys, said officer Fred Weiner, a police spokesman.

Authorities said the suspect, carrying wads of cash, would prowling around inner-city housing projects in the Bronx and Brooklyn in search of boys.

## Talks offered to Salvador rebels

Attacks on civilians must stop

SAN SALVADOR, Dec 10, (Reuters): Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani, in his first peace offer since leftist guerrillas launched a major offensive last month, yesterday offered negotiations with the rebels if they would agree to stop making attacks affecting civilians.

Softening his previous stance that the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) must lay down its arms for serious talks to take place, Cristiani said he was not demanding that the rebels stop attacking military targets.

"The government is ready to restart the process of dialogue on condition that the FMLN announces publicly that it will stop all terrorist actions, especially those affecting the civilian population," he told a news conference.

### Killing of Salvador priests Military probed

SAN JOSE, Dec 10, (UPI): El Salvador's US-aided investigation into the brutal killing of six Jesuit priests last month is focusing "almost exclusively" on the military, Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani said in Costa Rica yesterday.

"Right now, we are in an investigation almost exclusively within the armed forces," Cristiani said at a news conference after arriving in Costa Rica for the two-day summit of five Central American leaders Sunday and Monday.

"The FBI (US Federal Bureau of Investigation), which already has its people in San Salvador, as well as the Salvadoran investigative unit have begun the investigations within elements of the armed forces," Cristiani said.

It was the first time Cristiani has said military officers are the main suspects in the Nov 16 slaying of Ignacio Ellacuria, rector of El Salvador's Jesuit-run Central American University, five other Jesuit priests, their housekeeper and her daughter.

The eight were dragged from their home and gunned down by men in military uniforms in an area of the capital under control of government troops.

The Catholic church, the Jesuit order and other groups who have carried out independent investigations have said there is conclusive evidence suggesting the military or a paramilitary group carried out the pre-dawn murders which shocked the world with their brutality.

Cristiani said he could not predict how long the investigation would run or whether it would ever turn up the murderers, but promised a "100 per cent effort" to bring the killers to justice.



Worthy ending

Calling it a "worthy ending" to a tragedy, the son of Boris Pasternak on Saturday accepted his late father's Nobel prize, 31 years after Soviet authorities forced Pasternak to turn it down.

"Never, ever did I think this could happen," said Yevgeny Pasternak as he accepted the prize at a ceremony in Nobel hall in Stockholm.

Boris Pasternak, who died in 1960, was awarded the prize in 1958 for his novel "Doctor Zhivago" but was not allowed to accept it. A few days ago, the Soviet authorities granted his 66-year-old son permission to travel to Stockholm for the ceremony. (Reuters wirephoto)

### Chile goes to polls

## Pinochet rule nears end

SANTIAGO, Dec 10, (AP): After a remarkable peaceful campaign, Chileans on Thursday elect their leader and put an end to the long rule of Gen. Augusto Pinochet. But the military leader's legacy will not end easily.

The election, the first in Chile in 19 years, is seen as a comment on the Pinochet rule. Virtually all polls give the opposition a substantial lead, but even Pinochet's critics acknowledge some of the many profound changes wrought by the right-wing military president.

Three men are bidding to succeed Pinochet: Patricio Aylwin, a 71-year-old law professor and

former Senate president supported by a coalition of 17 moderate and leftist opposition parties; Hernan Buchi, 40, a former finance minister under Pinochet backed by right-wing forces; and Francisco Javier Errazuriz, 47, a wealthy conservative businessman.

Voters also will pick 38 senators and 120 house of deputies members. The balloting is decisive step in the country's long road back to democracy after more than 16 years under Pinochet's authoritarian, often harshly repressive regime.

A two-man presidential runoff will be held in January or February if no one wins more than 50 per cent of the vote. The

new government assumes power March 11.

Aylwin is given a commanding lead in virtually all pre-election surveys, and his two opponents have openly admitted they each hope only to win second place and hold Aylwin to under half the total vote.

Pre-election surveys give Aylwin from about 47 to about 57 per cent of the total vote. His principal threat comes from Buchi, who is shown in the polls with from about 27 to 37 per cent of the vote.

According to the polls, Errazuriz has only a remote chance of capturing more than about 15 per cent of the vote.

"The search for a vaccine is a long journey (this study) means we've completed the first leg of this journey," Hoth said in a telephone interview. "This is a breakthrough because it shows that a vaccine can protect against an AIDS-like infection in monkeys."

Hoth said the vaccine appeared to work on monkeys in laboratory conditions, but the transition to a vaccine that works on humans in less-than-ideal conditions will take years.

"If everything goes perfectly, five years is not an

### Wound dressed

A wounded Salvadoran guerrilla is attended to by his comrades after he was hit in the neck by a bullet during a combat with government troops. President Cristiani later announced his desire to negotiate with the guerrillas. (Reuters wirephoto)

## Hotel queen may go to jail

NEW YORK, Dec 10, (Reuters): Billionaire hotel owner Leona Helmsley, convicted of evading \$1.2 million in income tax, finds out on Tuesday if she has to move to a prison cell.

A Manhattan federal judge will sentence Helmsley, 69, on convictions which could mean 127 years in jail if run consecutively or five years if run concurrently, as is often the case.

She also faces fines of up to \$7.75 million.

Helmsley, a former secretary who runs a \$5 billion real estate empire with her husband Harry, was convicted last August for charging personal items — from girdles to an enclosed swimming pool at her estate — to business operations.

She was acquitted of the most serious charge — extorting kickbacks from contractors and suppliers. The couple, who own the Helmsley Palace, Park Lane Hotel and the Harry Hotel chain, are among the wealthiest in the world.

Harry Helmsley had also been charged but was found mentally incompetent to stand trial.

Federal district court judge John Walker could sentence Helmsley to probation but most legal experts think this unlikely after the tale of greed that captured the attention of New York and the rest of America this summer.

Despite the legal proceedings, Mrs Helmsley continues to star in a multi-million-dollar advertising campaign for the Helmsley Palace Hotel that trumpets "the only palace in the world where the queen stands guard."

During the trial, which lasted about seven weeks, more than 40 witnesses testified to Helmsley's arrogance and her disregard for employees and the law.

Even Helmsley's own lawyer, Gerald Pfeffer, acknowledged his client's abusive personality. But he told the jury that it was not against the law to be a "tough bitch" and that Helmsley's personality was not on trial.

One witness, a former housekeeper at the couple's Connecticut estate, testified that Helmsley told her: "We don't pay taxes. The little people pay taxes."

Piles of bills charged to the Helmsley hotels were presented as evidence. These included \$1 million for the construction of a marble dance floor that enclosed an indoor swimming pool at the estate, \$500,000 for a Ming dynasty jade water buffalo and other jade objects, and \$58 for leg waxing.

## 'Poll-year windfall' Drought relief

Dec 10, (AP): The record \$3.9 billion drought relief bill passed by Congress in 1988, hailed as salvation for small US farmers devastated by a brutal dry spell, became an election-year windfall for thousands of farmers.

Payments went far beyond the initial intent to save midwestern grain growers from bankruptcy, an effort — supported by almost everyone — that simply grew and grew.

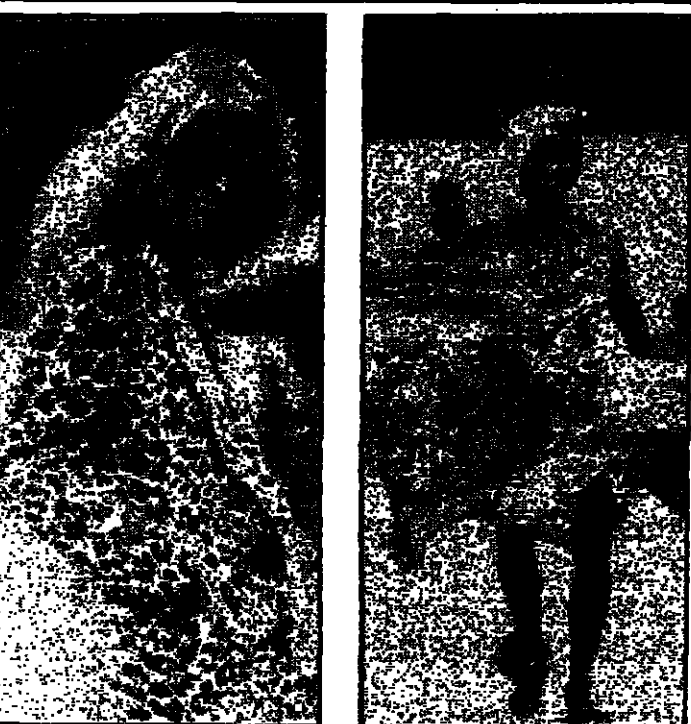
An Associated Press study conducted over seven months found the drought relief bill paid cash to farmers for everything from hail-damaged Kiwi fruit in California to heat-stressed radishes in Massachusetts, rain-blasted tomatoes in New Jersey and washed-out bird seed in Colorado.

At each step, the programme was broadened. Congress began with a bill to aid drought victims. The lawmakers added hail to the relief package. Then floods.

Next, the agriculture department added "heat". By the time checks were being written at the county level, the AP found, fellow farmers elected to locally administer federal agriculture programmes were approving claims for such common perils as insects, said, wind, cold and fungus, even "ineffective herbicide."

None of those conditions should have been ruled eligible, administrators in Washington say. Nothing in federal procedures, however, requires paperwork to be forwarded to higher officials for routine approval or checking.

By the end of this October, about one-quarter of all US farmers had collected on damage to most of 506 eligible crops and just about any kind of weather peril in 49 states. The taxpayers' tab ran to \$3.9 billion dollars.



Scherrer collection

French designer Jean-Louis Scherrer's daughter Letitia Scherrer (left) displays a spring dress and another model wears a summer dress from his 1990 spring-summer collection at a fashion show in Istanbul. (Reuters wirephoto)

## Aids breakthrough could lead to a vaccine for humans in next five years

WASHINGTON, Dec 10, (Reuters): An experimental Aids vaccine for monkeys could lead to a human one within five years, but scientists warn that it could be a rocky road from ideal laboratory conditions to real-life conquest of the killer disease.

The report on Thursday that a vaccine used by researchers in Louisiana had successfully protected eight of nine monkeys against simian Aids was hailed as a breakthrough by Dr Dan Hoth, who directs Aids research at the National Institute of Health near Washington.

"The search for a vaccine is a long journey (this study) means we've completed the first leg of this journey," Hoth said in a telephone interview. "This is a breakthrough because it shows that a vaccine can protect against an AIDS-like infection in monkeys."

Hoth said the vaccine appeared to work on monkeys in laboratory conditions, but the transition to a vaccine that works on humans in less-than-ideal conditions will take years.

"If everything goes perfectly, five years is not an

unreasonable goal (for a human vaccine)," Hoth said.

That tallies with the estimate given by Dr Michael Murphy-Corb, who led the research team at Tulane University Medical Centre in Louisiana which performed the monkey Aids experiment. The breakthrough was reported on Friday in Science magazine.

"We have laid a cornerstone for the foundation of an Aids vaccine for humans," Murphy-Corb told Reuters before the study was published. Later, she

said in a television interview that her personal goal was to have a human Aids vaccine within five years.

The experimental vaccine, made from killed simian immunodeficiency virus (SIV), was found to prevent SIV infection in rhesus monkeys.

SIV is related to the HIV virus that causes acquired immune deficiency syndrome, but it infects only monkeys. Researchers commonly use SIV as a model for the Aids virus, which kills its victims by destroying the body's ability to fight disease.

# Needs dictate better US-China ties: Deng

Groundwork laid for improving ties

BEIJING, Dec 10, (AP): China's senior leader Deng Xiaoping, in a meeting with a special US presidential envoy, said today common desires and needs dictate that the two countries improve strained relations.

Deng's comments came at the end of an unannounced one-day visit by national security adviser Brent Scowcroft, the most senior American official to visit China since June.

Scowcroft, accompanied by Deputy Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger, left today for Tokyo to brief Japanese leaders of the recent superpower summit.

One US official said after the departure that improvement in bilateral relations "remains to be seen, but I think very good groundwork was laid."

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Li Zhaoxing said the talks with senior Chinese leaders were "useful, constructive, and I think both sides are happy about the discussions." There are differences, Li said, but "both sides expressed willingness to overcome their differences."

The two sides announced no specific measures to improve relations, such as solving the problem of astrophysicist Fang Lizhi, the pro-democracy dissident who has been sheltered in the US embassy with his wife since June.

With reporters and photographers looking on, Deng, 85, said that although Scowcroft nominally came to brief the Chinese on the US-Soviet summit in Malta, the importance of the visit "is that in spite of the disputes and the differences between us, after all, Sino-US relations have to be improved."

"That is something that is necessary for world peace and stability."

Scowcroft said the US side agreed "and we are interested in working with you to promote that."

The visit by Scowcroft and Eagleburger appeared to end an embargo on high-level contacts imposed by US President George Bush last June.

White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said in Washington yesterday that sanctions imposed in June remained, and that the trip by the two high-level emissaries was an exception to formal policy.

## UK to take in HK citizens

Boat people's fate sealed

LONDON, Dec 10, (AP): The British government has decided to give the right of residence to less than 200,000 of the three million holders of British passports in Hong Kong, the Observer newspaper reported today.

In another critical issue affecting the colony, other reports said Britain this week will start sending home the 40,000 Vietnamese boat people from Hong Kong whom it claims are not genuine refugees. Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd, who has the final responsibility for the decision, defended it in a newspaper article.

The Observer's unattributed report said the final figure for Hong Kong residents to be allowed into Britain is still being discussed and may be below 150,000. Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher will announce the decision before Christmas "to end uncertainty" in the colony, the weekly said.

Hong Kong's 5.7 million population, have been anxious about what might happen to them when the colony reverts to Chinese rule in mid-1997.

There has been heated argument in Britain about immigration, with strong views expressed for and against admitting the three million passport-holders. Critics of limitation say British honour is at stake.

### Arguing

The Observer said the Foreign Office, which is responsible for the colony, has been arguing about the problem with the Home Office, which is responsible for immigration. The issue is not yet resolved "because of its far-reaching impact on Britain's international standing," it added.

The Observer said: "Home

Office officials, worried about the possibility that a heavy influx of ethnic Chinese could spark racial strife in Britain's cities, have struggled to keep the numbers granted right of residence below 100,000. Under pressure from the Hong Kong governor, their Foreign Office counterparts have stressed Britain's need to honour its past obligations."

The Sunday Times and the Sunday Express reported that the first of the 40,000 Vietnamese boat people due to be repatriated forcibly from detention camps in Hong Kong will be flown home this week.

The Sunday Express said the repatriations will begin "despite the certainty of a ferocious diplomatic clash with the United States," which disapproves of forced repatriation.

Hurd, writing in the Sunday Express, reiterated his department's insistence that of the 57,000 boat people in the camps, 40,000 do not fear political repression, and so are not genuine refugees.

He said that if Britain was to resettle them outside Vietnam, it would "ensure that the camps steadily filled with new arrivals."

Hurd said the burden of the refugees upon Hong Kong, which he called "already one of the most crowded places on earth," had become intolerable. The screening process to discover who were genuine refugees was carried out under United Nations rules and supervised by UN officials, he stressed.

"No country is able to accept the non-refugees, and that is the truth we cannot escape," Hurd said.

"They can return without fear of punishment; we have a firm agreement with Vietnam on that," he added.

Immigration issue debated

## French trouble

PARIS, Dec 10, (Kuna): Immigration is now one of the major issues debated by all the political parties in France, from the ruling Socialist majority to the opposition right-wing parties and the racist National Front.

The adverse publicity by the "Islamic veil affair" and the subsequent victory of the National Front at a by-election, with 62 per cent of the votes and a seat at the National Assembly, has focussed everybody's attention on the immigration problem, which President Francois Mitterrand will raise this evening in his radio and television interview.

Meanwhile, in a survey appearing in the weekly newspaper "Le Journal du Dimanche," a large majority of French people, 70 per cent believe that Islam, instead of being pointed at, must be treated in France like all the other religions.

Of the 800 people polled on 8 December, 75 per cent agreed in saying that there was a large number of illegal immigrants in France, 68 per cent said they were in favour of the immediate expulsion measures against that type of immigrants and 84 per cent wanted the authorities to punish severely those who employ illegal immigrants.

Referring to those who have come to France legally and who are working here, 77 per cent indicated that the French economy needed them, and 78 per cent said that the government has to do more for the integration of children born of immigrant parents in France, because those children are French.

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## Vietnamese dies in fight

Tension in Hong Kong

HONG KONG, Dec 10, (Agencies): A Vietnamese man died and three others were injured today when 20 Vietnamese boat people brawled at a detention centre, police reported.

Police said the Vietnamese battled each other with iron bars for about 20 minutes before camp authorities restored order.

It was not known what sparked the violence at the Whitehead Detention Centre, which houses about 15,000 Vietnamese, police said.

A number of fights among Vietnamese boat people have broken out inside detention centres in the past several months, but police quickly brought them under control before widespread casualties occurred.

More than 56,000 Vietnamese boat people are languishing in Hong Kong camps after fleeing their communist homeland.

Tens of thousands of these Vietnamese are expected to be denied refugee status and be repatriated. Others who can substantiate fears of political repression at home are awaiting resettlement overseas.

Tension in the camps has increased in recent months with the possibility that those denied refugee status will be forcibly sent back to Vietnam.

A senior Western diplomat who followed refugee affairs said Britain and Hong Kong were still discussing arrangement for what he called the orderly return of people whose appeals for refugee status have been rejected by the government here.

He said press reports that forced repatriation was to get under way today were incorrect but added that it would happen sooner rather than later.

Workers in the camps, where some 57,000 boat people are held, say morale is deteriorating daily as people hear reports of plans to return most of them forcibly to the land they risked death to leave.

"Every day at 2 pm in Whitehead they all demonstrate, waving clenched fists in the air and showing banners. The banners say things like 'better dead than red' and 'freedom, where are you?' a camp worker said.

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EXHIBITION





Hundreds of demonstrators shout slogans in Paris, accusing the European mercenaries of murdering Comoros president Ahmed Abdallah. (Reuters wirephoto)

## French prepare to 'intervene'

### Mayotte garrison reinforced

DZAOUZI, Mayotte Island, Dec 10, (Reuters). French troops laboured in the tropical heat of this Indian Ocean territory today they prepared for possible military intervention on the neighbouring mercenary-held Comoros islands.

At least five Puma transport helicopters have been flown into Mayotte since Friday and military sources said 300 paratroopers and commandos were being rushed in to reinforce the normal garrison of 250 French Foreign Legionnaires.

Three French warships were anchored at Mayotte island, which decided to remain French when the other three Comoros islands unilaterally declared independence in 1975, and military transport planes ferried in men and supplies.

Army vehicles bumped along the narrow roads of the capital Dzaoudzi ferrying supplies from the aerodrome to a newly established camp of khaki tents, put up to house the military and possibly civilian evacuees from the Comoros islands.

The dark brown Puma helicopters were parked nearby and French troops dressed in shorts sweated in the searing heat as they unloaded ammunition and other supplies.

The French Defence Ministry has ruled out an invasion of the Comoros by a group of about 30 white mercenaries who have held power since the assassination of President Ahmed Abdallah two weeks ago.

But it said yesterday that France was making contingency plans to evacuate 1,600 French passport holders from the volcanic islands northwest of Madagascar.

Despite official French denials of an invasion, diplomats in the capital of Moroni say France will probably be obliged to assume responsibility for security if the mercenaries depart.

This is because the much-hated presidential guard, now under the control of the mercenaries and as such the only effective security force in the now volatile country, would be leaderless.

There is also a possibility of clashes between French troops and the mercenaries if the presidential guard tries to prevent the evacuation of French citizens.

Comoros interim president, said Mohamed Djohar, was to meet opposition leaders today to discuss the situation in the archipelago.

Diplomats, contacted by telephone from Mayotte, described Djohar as a virtual hostage to mercenary leader Bob Denard.

They said the situation there had been calm since anti-mercenary demonstrations on Thursday which were put down by heavily armed members of the Presidential Guard.

But they said the atmosphere was very tense and soldiers of the 500-strong Presidential Guard, now beefed up to 650 by the call-up of reservists, continued to patrol the capital.

The diplomats said Djohar was probably ordered to call today's meeting with opposition leaders by Denard to give an air of legitimacy to his government. "It is obviously an attempt by someone to try to further legitimise the situation," said one diplomat in a reference to Denard.

## Greece needs unity: ex-king

NEW YORK, Dec 10, (AP). Exiled Greek King Constantine XII is prepared to return to his homeland in whatever capacity would promote unity, according to an interview published today.

Constantine, interviewed by the New York Times in London, said he was not pushing to make a comeback as king, but simply wanted, as a Greek patriot, to help end the country's political stalemate.

"The thing that worries me, as an individual and as a Greek, is the sense that all Greeks, whether they're living in the country or abroad, are worried about what is actually happening," the Times quoted the king as saying in a rare interview.

"They have this desire to see Greece united, so that they don't stand still," he said.

After a series of inconclusive elections, an interim, all-party government was formed and early this month won a vote of confidence from the Greek parliament.

The Conservative, Socialist and Communist parties, which control 297 seats, agreed last month to form the joint government until new elections in April. National elections in June and November left no clear winner.

"A sense of unity and purpose is needed for our country to move into the new decade so that we can take part in all these exciting things that are taking place — the single European market of 1992 and what's happening in Eastern Europe this year," Constantine said in the Times interview.

The king said his mission was to develop in meetings with "hundreds of thousands" of Greeks over the last decade. He has talked to his countrymen in London and, most recently, in Puerto Rico in September to discuss Greece's bid to host the 1996 Olympics.

"The Greeks came there completely united," he told the Times. "They had representatives from all the political parties, including the technocrats, who were involved in the Athens bid (to form a new government). I think that kind of spirit is what we need if it can be translated into other fields is splendid."

The king said he would use news outlets to take his call for unity to the Greek people at the end of the year.

Constantine fled Greece in 1967 after an aborted attempt to oust a military dictatorship that had come to power in that year. With the fall of the junta in 1974 the people voted to abolish the monarchy. Constantine has visited Greece only once since then, in February 1981 for the funeral of his mother, Frederika.

## S. African awaits fate

### Woman on death row

CAPE TOWN, (Reuters). Crippled by arthritis, unable to read and alone except for the company of a warder, Evelina de Bruin waits on South Africa's death row to hear finally whether she will hang for murder by association.

Lawyers in Cape Town said last week it would be at least a year before the 56-year-old black grandmother hears from the appeal court in Bloemfontein whether she must die on the gallows.

Two psychologists have testified in court that De Bruin is falling apart under the strain of her isolation in Pretoria Central Prison, where at least 1,120 people have died on the gallows since 1980.

"Our mother believes she is going to die. She feels they can come to kill her at any time and that is no way for a human being to live," said her stepson, Welcome Madlongolwane.

"She is going through tremendous pain. She feels guilty about her young children, she feels sad and she has no one to talk to because she is the only woman on death row," he said.

De Bruin is a former domestic worker and the mother of 10 children. Madlongolwane said she was illiterate and partially crippled by arthritis in the hands and legs and by heart disease.

She and her husband, 63-year-old Gideon Madlongolwane, were among 25 people condemned in May for their part in the mob murder of black policeman Lucas Sethwala, who was branded during anti-government riots in November 1985 as a collaborator.

More than 5,000 people have died in black political violence and clashes with police since a nation-wide uprising against white rule erupted in September 1984.

De Bruin and the others were convicted according to the "common purpose" doctrine, which holds that someone who identifies with the murderous intent of a group shares full responsibility for its actions.

"(The judge) specially found that Evelina de Bruin did not actually take part in the physical attack," defence lawyer Andy Durbach said in a memorandum given to Reuters.

But he accepted evidence that she threw stones at Sethwala's house and shouted encouragement to a crowd that killed him and burned his body.

"The court found that Evelina actively associated herself with the common purpose of the crowd to kill Sethwala and found her guilty of murder... as an accomplice," Durbach said.

The judge ruled there were no extenuating circumstances in her case and was therefore

obliged by South African law to sentence her to death.

Sandra Liebenberg, another of De Bruin's lawyers, said she appeared to be most deeply distressed by the court's verdict rather than by the prospect of execution.

"She is very religious and she has great difficulty with the fact that she has been branded a murderer while the court has acknowledged that she did not actively participate in the killing," she said.

Madlongolwane agreed, saying both his parents wrote in letters that they never knew the victim.

"I would not feel so bad if I had ever seen the man, but I am being condemned for killing someone I never knew," she told him in one letter dictated to a prison warder.

De Bruin has not seen her youngest children, Mbulelo, 14, and Adelaide, 11, since May because they are below the age limit of 16 for death row visitors.

The older children visit whenever they can find the fare for the 1,000 km (650 mile) trip to Pretoria, but Madlongolwane said he did not think anyone would visit her at Christmas.

"I am so worried about the welfare of my children that I have not been able to eat for the past week. I cannot sleep properly, I feel afraid and sad when I think of my children," De Bruin said in an unsuccessful bail application in October.

Madlongolwane said she was collapsing under the strain of separation from her children and of being branded a murderer.

De Bruin can get comfort from her Bible only when a prison warder takes time to read to her or to play her a recorded reading, he said.

Psychologist Lloyd Vogelstein said after interviewing her in October that she was suffering deep depression "indicated by a feeling of sadness and habitual crying, poor appetite, feelings of worthlessness, agitation and restlessness."

Madlongolwane, a school teacher in Namibia, said he was most concerned about Mbulelo, who had become distrustful and aggressive since his parents were sentenced to death.

"He hates the sight of a policeman and if he sees anything that looks like a gun he wants to take it and go and rescue our mother," he said.

South African opponents of the death penalty have launched an international campaign to save De Bruin and the other 13 condemned for Sethwala's murder.

## Blacks reject Klerk's reforms

JOHANNESBURG, Dec 10, (Reuters). A major conference of South African anti-apartheid groups has rejected President F.W. de Klerk's reform programme and vowed to continue the struggle against racial segregation.

A declaration issued at the end of the first day of the conference said blacks were ready to negotiate with the white government, but only when it showed it was serious.

Nearly 5,000 delegates from all over the country met to discuss de Klerk's moves to reform apartheid and offer to negotiate some form of power-sharing arrangement with the powerless black majority.

"De Klerk has done nothing which convinces us that he is genuine. There are no actions to back up his vague promises," yesterday's declaration said.

It added that de Klerk would have to create the necessary conditions for negotiations: a commitment to end apartheid, a commitment to end the state of emergency, a commitment to end the ban on the African National Congress, and a commitment to end the ban on the South African Communist Party.

The banned nationalist movement, the African National Congress, has long counted the abolition of the land, group areas and population registration acts — cornerstones of South Africa's racial segregation — among its priorities for negotiations.

"We cannot and will not wait until de Klerk is ready. Our struggle to dismantle apartheid and exploitation and to build a democratic future will go on," the declaration said.

The statement dismissed reforms, including the release of political prisoners and relaxation of restrictions on public protest, undertaken by the president since he came to power following segregated elections in September.

"The strategic objective of the regime remains that of reestablishing apartheid to make it palatable to the South African people and the international community. More importantly, the clear intention is to protect the privileges of the white minority," it said.

"We will continue to resist apartheid, even defy and dismantle it, whatever the cost. We will build the maximum unity among all anti-apartheid forces. We will continue to demand that the international community intensify its efforts to isolate the De Klerk government."

The conference, organised by trades unions, church and other organisations who make up the mass democratic movement, involves a broad range of anti-apartheid groups, from youth and student congresses to tribal homeland leaders.

Some of the groups are restricted under South Africa's three-year-old state of emergency regulations, and their representatives defied orders to speak to the meeting, held in a sports hall at Johannesburg's Witwatersrand University.

Members of the white opposition Democratic Party and diplomats from several Western countries attended as observers.

## Out of Jungle

Flanked by a Thai Army officer, two Japanese Imperial Army soldiers, Shigeyuki Hashimoto, 72, (left) and Kiyooki Tanaka, 76, (right) arrive at a Thai Army camp in Pattani, Thailand, after spending more than 40 years in the jungle with the Communist

Party of Malaya (CPM). Thai and Malaysian authorities last week signed a peace agreement with CPM party chief ending a four-decade long guerrilla war. (Reuters wirephoto)

## Heseltine favourite

LONDON, Dec 10, (Kuna). The former defence secretary Michael Heseltine is the man most favoured by British voters to be a successor to Margaret Thatcher as Conservative Party leader, according to a new poll today.

Nearly one in seven, 13 per cent, said Heseltine as leader would make them inclined to support the Conservative at the next general election, in a Gallup survey published in the Sunday Telegraph.

Heseltine beat as potential rivals Deputy Premier, Sir Geoffrey Howe, the current party chairman, Kenneth Baker, and the former chairman Norman Tebbit.

Among Labour supporters, 15 per cent said they might back the Conservatives under Heseltine. His

rivals generally fared badly in the poll — 950 people were asked whom they would favour if Thatcher stepped down.

It was conducted during the Conservative leadership contest between Thatcher and Conservative MP, Sir Anthony Meyer, but before the result was declared.

A total of 14 per cent of all voters said they would be less likely to support the Conservatives with current party chairman Kenneth Baker in charge.

Heseltine has said earlier that he would not challenge Thatcher for the leadership, implying he would submit himself only when there is a vacancy, observers noted.

## Riot day rallies in Taiwan

TAIPEI, Dec 10, (AP). Thousands of Taiwanese rallied today to mark the 10th anniversary of an anti-government riots and demand the immediate release of dissidents involved in the 1979 incident.

Several opposition leaders made speeches during the gathering in the southern city of Kaohsiung, and some planned to walk along the route where the disturbances occurred, organisers said.

"The 1979 incident was a historical tragedy. Now that Taiwan has taken steps towards democracy, it is the best time for the government to face the reality and correct all the wrongdoings," said Huang Hsin-chieh, chairman of the opposition Democratic Progressive Party. Huang had been jailed for seven years for organising the protests 10 years ago.

Huang also urged the Nationalist authorities to end political injustice and free two dissidents who are still in prison because of the riots.

On Dec 10, 1979, thousands of dissident supporters, many carrying torches, gathered in Kaohsiung for the human rights day march organised by a dissident magazine to demand political reforms. The anti-government protest turned violent when club-wielding demonstrators clashed with riot police, who forcibly dispersed the crowd.



## Fast for rights

With prayers and meditation, relief workers began a 24-hour fast at sundown Saturday to appeal for the human rights of 300,000 Cambodians driven from their homes by war and revolution.

About 100 workers of at least seven nationalities gathered in their homes to fast and for special religious services on the eve of International Human Rights day, organisers said.

"We think that all we are doing is making a hellhole a little bit more palatable. We are taking one day to think about that, about how to get the Cambodians back home," said organiser Corinne Bowmaker of the American refugee committee.

The night before, three people were wounded in firing in the same area, she said. Picture shows guerrillas tend two government troops wounded during a resistance attack on Svey Chek in north-western Cambodia. (Reuters wirephoto)

## Seoul deputy to quit politics in dishonour 'to save nation'

SEOUL, Dec 10, (AP). A lawmaker's willingness to resign in dishonour could help President Roh Tae-woo resolve a prolonged political crisis, officials said today.

Chung Ho-Yong, a senior member of the governing Democratic Justice Party, in a sudden reversal, announced yesterday that he would quit politics "to save the nation" if Roh asks him to do so.

The lawmaker's remarks were regarded as a major breakthrough in the current deadlock over charges of corruption, power abuse and

human rights violations under disgraced former president Chun Doo-Hwan.

Chun, who left office early last year after a seven-year term, was forced into rural exile late last year after publicly apologizing for misdeeds under his rule.

Chung's resignation from the National Assembly has been a key part of an opposition demand for resolving the controversy. The opposition also demands testimony by Chun on his alleged misrule.

Chung, a former defence minister and army chief of staff, has been a main opposition target for his alleged role in the bloody military crackdown on a civil uprising in the southern city of Kwangju in 1980 that left some 200 people dead and more than 1,500 others injured or wounded.

Many opposition politicians and dissidents claim that Chung, then an army lieutenant-general who headed a special forces unit, was a de facto supervisor of the military operation in Kwangju.

**Whites attack coloureds:** A group of South African neo-Nazis on Saturday beat up a dozen coloured (mixed-race) people who were picnicking in a whites-only area in Boksburg, near Johannesburg.

The incident sparked clashes which police ended by firing tear-gas, witnesses said.

The violence erupted after members of the far-right Afrikaner Resistance Movement (AWB) attacked about 12 people among 60 coloureds holding a barbecue in defiance of local government laws reserving the area for whites. (Reuters)

**Junta lays down strict rules:** The military government announced strict rules Saturday for the two political parties it created to contest elections and return Nigeria to civilian rule.

All former politicians already are banned from seeking office, but a new decree Saturday says they will be punished with six-month jail terms if they even try to join the two parties.

The decree also bans youth or women's wings in the parties on grounds they provide gangs of thugs to intimidate voters in past electoral campaigns. (AP)

**Boat capsized in storm:** A fishing boat with eight people aboard capsized on Saturday off Newfoundland in a severe storm that earlier sank two ships in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, leaving 39 sailors missing and feared dead, the Coast Guard said.

One body from the 60-foot (18 metre) fishing boat, the Johnny and Sisters, was recovered from the frigid North Atlantic waters off eastern Canada. There were no signs of survivors, the Coast Guard said.

The ships and four aircraft — including two helicopters — were searching in poor weather for the Nova Scotia-based Longliner, which capsized about 125 miles (200 km) off Cape Race, Newfoundland, according to the Coast Guard. (Reuters)

**Castro reaffirms stance:** Cuban President Fidel Castro says his country will not become an "appendix of the Yankee empire" even though the demise of communist rule in Eastern Europe opens the way to what he calls global US domination.

Reaffirming his hardline stance against changes on the other side of the Atlantic, Castro said Cuba may be assigned the role of being among the last defenders of socialism.

Castro delivered the speech Thursday at a ceremony honouring more than 2,000 Cubans who have died carrying out revolutionary tasks overseas. A text was made available in the United States. (AP)

**Ex-Chinese diplomat dies:** Huang Zhen, former ambassador to France and minister of culture, died Sunday at the age of 80, the official Xinhua News Agency said.

Huang was ambassador to France from 1964-73, except for three years beginning in 1967 when he was criticized during the cultural revolution.

Huang also headed China's liaison office in the United States before US-China relations were established in 1979, and served as president of the China-US People's Friendship Association.

Huang also held the posts of ambassador to Hungary and Indonesia. (AP)

**Hunger experts ask for more funds:** Experts on fighting hunger from 14 countries, including the United States, China and the Soviet Union, said on Friday that the proceeds from a one per cent cut in spending on defence could pay for a programme to overcome hunger in the 1990s.

"It is possible to end half the world's hunger before the year 2000," they said in a joint statement.

"A billion people live in households too poor to obtain the food they need to work... half of those are too poor even to obtain the food they need to maintain minimal activity."

They suggested that a realistic programme might require \$5 to \$10 billion a year in new or reallocated funds. (AP)

**Titan 3 launch delayed:** The maiden flight of a commercial Titan 3 rocket, grounded by stormy weather Friday, is off until Dec 20 because of already booked military tracking facilities, officials said on Saturday.

The long-awaited debut of America's most powerful commercial built rocket will follow Sunday's launch of an air force Delta 2, one and possibly two test firings of Trident submarine missiles, sources say, and the launch of the space shuttle Columbia around Dec 18.

"The new date is based on the US Air Force eastern test range's next available opportunity to support the Titan launch," said Ed Browne, president of Commercial Titan Inc., a subsidiary of rocket builder Martin Marietta Astronautics Group of Denver. (UPI)

**Kodong loses by-election:** Mark Kodong, the former chief minister of Malaysia's Christian-dominated state of Sabah, lost a by-election on Satur-

## New US destroyer detectable

WASHINGTON, Dec 10, (AP). The US Navy's new \$1.2 billion Burke-class destroyer, hailed as the most advanced surface combat ship ever, could be detected by Soviet airborne radar despite the Defence Department's efforts to make the ship elusive on enemy radar, a lawmaker contended.

In a letter to a House of Representatives colleague, Democratic Congressman John Dingell also said that despite the navy's claims to the contrary, the service was forced to bail out the destroyer's manufacturer — Bath Iron Works Corp., of the US state of Maine.

The bail-out money, according to the Michigan Democrat, came from unspecified navy accounts, raising the question, he said, of whether a "slush fund" exists at the Defence Department.

"Clearly, I think the navy and the contractors are attempting to hoodwink both of us," Dingell said in a three-page letter to Democratic Congressman Charles E. Bennett, chairman of the House Armed Services Subcommittee on seapower and strategic and critical materials.

The navy and the president of Bath Iron Works Corp., immediately disputed Dingell's claims, with the Bath executive questioning the appropriateness of the congressman's references to a classified issue such as naval radar capability.

"The whole business of radar signatures still has same classifications. Congressman Dingell can choose to violate his security clearance. I don't choose to violate mine," said Duane D. Fitzgerald, president and chief operating officer of the Bath Iron Works Corp.



# Opposition dominated cabinet in

## Husak quits; Havel may succeed as Czech president

PRAGUE, Dec 10, (Agencies): President Gustav Husak, the hardliner who helped suppress the 1968 "Prague Spring" reform movement, today swore in the first government not dominated by communists in 41 years. Then he resigned.

The coalition government is a victory for the nation's young but potent pro-democracy movement. It includes two men who were persecuted as dissidents until just several weeks ago.

Husak's last official act, culminated a peaceful revolution led by the nation's top dissident, playwright Vaclav Havel.

Havel, however, was absent today at Prague's historic castle where the cabinet was sworn in by Husak, 76. The opposition hopes Havel will be elected president in the next two weeks.

Husak had said yesterday he would step down as soon as the new government was named. Premier Marian Calfa announced on television after the swearing-in that Husak had quit, as

promised.

Havel told more than 300,000 elated citizens who jammed Prague's Wenceslas Square that they had achieved "a peaceful revolution."

Husak, who was Communist Party chief from 1969 to 1987, led the crackdown on the reform movement after it was crushed by a Warsaw Pact invasion in 1968.

Under his rule, some of those sworn in today were sent to jail or relegated to the most menial jobs.

They included Jiri Dienstbier,

a dissident imprisoned with Havel from 1979 to 1982, who became foreign minister.

Jan Carnogursky, a Slovak lawyer and Roman Catholic activist, became a deputy premier in charge of the secret police and other state organs.

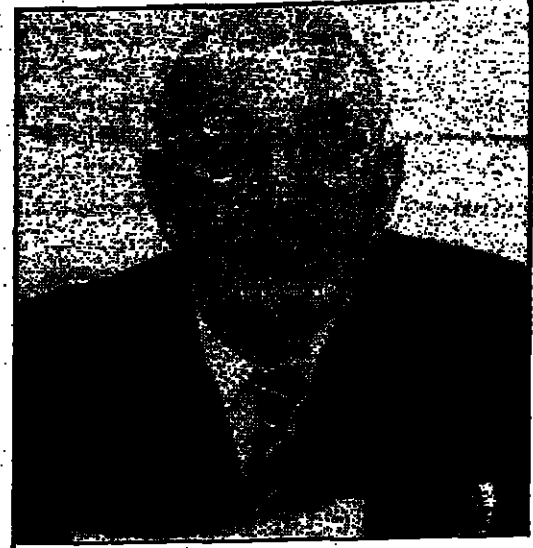
Carnogursky was in jail just two weeks ago, when he was among the first prisoners released under an amnesty as the communists scrambled to make concessions to the mass pro-democracy movement on the streets.

The new 21-member government contains 10 communists, two of whom enjoy opposition support, seven non-party members and two members each from the small Socialist and People's Parties, former docile communist allies.

Reform-minded communist economist Václav Komárek joins Carnogursky as a first deputy premier, meaning opposition-backed men are the most powerful after Marian Calfa, the relatively weak communist premier named on Thursday.



Havel waves to a crowd of hundreds of thousands of Czechs moments before the announcement of the new government. (Reuters wirephoto)



Husak appears on TV to announce his resignation plan. (Reuters wirephoto)

## Rally in Sofia to end CP rule

SOFIA, Dec 10, (Reuters): Tens of thousands of Bulgarians, shouting for their communist rulers to surrender their monopoly on power and hold talks with the opposition, massed in central Sofia today.

Chanting, banner-waving protesters cheered as leading political activist Zhelyu Zhelev called for the ruling Communist Party to hold a dialogue with the opposition groups.

"Our main idea is immediate preparation of national round table dialogue with the Bulgarian Communist Party," Zhelev shouted to a euphoric crowd from the snowy steps of the city's Alexander Nevski Cathedral.

Zhelev said talks should result in a new constitution that takes away the Communist Party's monopoly on power, separates powers and provides for a president elected by the people.

He called for the National Assembly, which meets on Thursday, to strike from the current constitution the clause mandating the Communist Party's leadership role.

Thousands of protesters, many wearing red armbands, immediately began shouting slogans. The crowd, which witnesses estimated at 50,000-strong, roared back. Many protesters waved banners demanding that Bulgaria's National Assembly scrap the first paragraph of the constitution, which guarantees the party's leading role in government.

"Prague, East Berlin—Sofia," said one banner, a reference to the fact that Czechoslovak and East German communist parties have already surrendered their monopoly on power.

The protest, held in sub-zero temperatures, was organised by 19 of the opposition groups that have flourished in Bulgaria since new leader Peter Mladenov ousted veteran hardliner Todor Zhivkov last month.

Mladenov has carried out a sweeping purge of unpopular officials from top party posts—a move Western diplomats said was intended to show willingness to listen to opposition views. The party's decision-making Central Committee is due to meet again on Monday.

But many dissidents have said the changes are not enough.

"The changes so far have been purely cosmetic," Konstantin Trenchev, leader of the unofficial trade union Podkrepa, told Reuters.

"We hope this demonstration will exert pressure on the government to make them realise it's time to make a real effort."

More than 5,000 of the country's ethnic Turks also attended the meeting, shouting for the Bulgarian government to restore their religious rights and Islamic names which were removed by a cultural assimilation campaign during Zhivkov's 35-year rule.

The crowd dispersed peacefully after two hours and police did not intervene.

Petko Simeonov, another leading activist, recalled that the rally marked the 41st anniversary of the universal declaration of human rights.

"There is no turning back," he said. "Let's show that we can... without the control of a totalitarian government, became citizens like all Europeans. Our meeting is making history."



Protest in Moscow

Soviet Interior Ministry troops carry away a protester during a banned rally on Moscow's Pushkin Square called by the left-wing Democratic Union's group.

At least one protester was injured and several others were arrested. (Reuters wirephoto)

## Rallies in 8 cities

Challenge to new GDR leader

EAST BERLIN, Dec 10, (Reuters): Tens of thousands of demonstrators in eight East German cities sent out a challenge today to new reformist Communist Party chief George Gysi.

Some were bluntly anti-communist. Others voiced fears that right-wing groups could step in to fill the vacuum left by the virtual collapse of the communist party.

"Change or no change—no to the SED (Communist Party)," was the stark message on one placard at a protest by more than 1,000 pro-reform demonstrators in East Berlin.

Their banners spelt a rebuff to the party which human rights lawyer Gysi hopes to cleanse of the corruption left by disgraced former leader Erich Honecker, ousted by massive demonstrations in October and expelled from the party last week.

From Rostock in the north to Cottbus in the south, thousands kept up pressure for reform.

Protesters in Rostock carried banners declaring "no right turn" and "stop the brown (Nazi) danger," the official ADN news agency said.

But the toughest test for the 41-year-old Gysi, elected by an emergency party congress yesterday, comes on Monday on the streets of Leipzig, powerhouse of the mass protest movement.

Sebastian Pflugbeil, leading member of East Germany's biggest opposition group, New Forum, said he believed the party had little chance of shaking off the legacy of corruption and misrule left by Honecker.

"I'm very sorry for Gysi... I doubt if he can succeed," he said, recalling that the liberal communist had fought to legalise New Forum as the reform movement gathered speed.

Pflugbeil told Reuters he feared the Leipzig demonstration, far from showing support for Gysi, would go further along the road of demands for German reunification.

"There is a danger lurking behind the curtains that right-wing groups will organise to

exploit this kind of tendency... while other opposition groups are still unorganised," he said.

Gysi and communist Prime Minister Hans Modrow warned against hasty steps towards reunification at the emergency Communist Party congress that chose the new leader yesterday.

Gysi, an urban lawyer whose image is untainted by links with the old leadership, pledged to stamp out corruption and crush the Stalinist methods that kept the country in strict ideological check for so long.

Seven past leaders are already in custody on suspicion of corruption, including former state security minister Erich Mielke. Honecker is under house arrest in the compound that once served as a luxury retreat for high officials.

Murky tales of secret luxury villas and privileges have all but destroyed morale in the party. More than 500,000 of its 2.2 million members have turned in their cards since police first tried to stifle demonstrations with baton attacks in early October.

But the new political dawn in East Germany has also caught opposition groups unprepared for government.



Modrow sits at speaker's table for the emergency session of Communist Party. (Reuters wirephoto)

In Czechoslovakia, also in the throes of momentous and rapid political change, non-communists have taken 11 out of 21 portfolios in a new government announced at the weekend.

But in East Germany, no obvious leaders have emerged among reform activists—a weakness which has given the communists a lone ace card ahead of unprecedented free elections expected on May 6.

The Socialist Unity Party (SED)—the Communist Party's official title, which is soon to change—is still the only force with a strong nationwide organisation.

"We didn't start out with any aim of taking political power," Pflugbeil said. "The population is expecting so much of us, but many of us are so young and we don't have the perfected economic concepts the country needs after 40 years of misrule."

Candidates for East Germany's first free elections next May are already off and running, with two Mr Clean—communists taking a fast early lead over the rest of the amateur pack.

The date for the first free polls in 40 years of Stalinist dictatorship was announced on Thursday when the government and opposition had their first negotiating session.

But the communists, running for their political lives after "people power" protests all but swept them from the scene, lost no time in finding a charismatic candidate to lead the party over the hurdles that lie before it.

"I'll vote for Gysi," Hans-Juergen Krueger, a truck driver who is not a party member, declared. "He knows what he wants, he is young... he will manage the crisis."

The communists will need every vote they can get. The party, by far the country's largest with 1.7 million members, has lost 300,000 from its ranks in the past two months.

While the communists have their "dream ticket," the other parties are still milling around at the starting line.

## Gorby ready to abandon party's grip on power

Harm to East Germany won't be allowed

MOSCOW, Dec 10, (Agencies): President Mikhail S. Gorbachev has told the communist leadership he is ready to modify or abandon the party's constitutional monopoly on power but only as part of sweeping reforms defining its role to other "political forces."

"In the framework of this process, any article (of the constitution) can be the subject of modification or be excluded. This fully refers as well to article six, Gorbachev told the party's policy-making central committee at a plenary meeting yesterday.

Article six of the 1977 constitution guarantees the 20-million-member

Gorbachev has pledged that the Soviet Union will not allow any harm to come to East Germany and warned the West against taking advantage of the political turmoil there.

In a speech to a Communist Party central committee meeting, Gorbachev reaffirmed that Moscow would not interfere in the changes taking place in Eastern Europe and said all East Europeans had the right to decide their own fate.

But he made clear that he considered any moves now toward German reunification would be destabilising and that Moscow would resist any Western attempts to push the issue.

On Thursday, Lithuania became the first of the 15 constituent Soviet republics to drop a constitutional guarantee of communist supremacy. "Law-makers" in another Baltic republic, Estonia, will consider establishing a multiparty system Dec 15.

Human rights activist Andrei D. Sakharov and several other members of the Congress of People's Deputies parliament have called a two-hour general strike tomorrow, the day before the Congress convenes, to show popular support for removing the party clause from the national constitution.

Gorbachev hotly denied article six had hindered greater democratisation of Soviet life since he came to power in March 1985. In an obvious reference to Sakharov, a Nobel peace laureate, Gorbachev said those demanding its urgent revocation were trying to "demoralise communists, lower their activity at a turning point in perestroika," his programme for overhauling Soviet economy and society.

"We must not create a new constitution until we have more or less clearly defined the contours of the renewed social mechanism, the optimal structure of organs of power and administration, the order of interaction of political forces," Gorbachev countered.

The 58-year-old Soviet leader did not use the expression "political parties," but was clearly sketching out a role in Soviet public life for groups not controlled by communists.

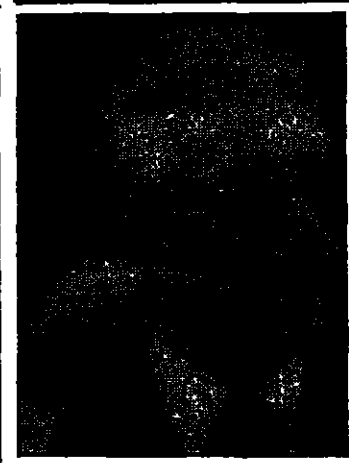
So-called informal organisations have proliferated in the more liberal climate introduced by Gorbachev.

Candidates nominated by grassroots people's fronts organisations are widely expected today to beat many communists when nationwide elections to fill municipal councils begin in Estonia and Latvia.

In his remarks, Gorbachev, who chairs a commission on preparing a new Soviet constitution, appeared to put off redefining the party's political role under preparations began for a national party congress in October 1990, which will determine "how the party should be in current conditions."

ber party the "leading and guiding" role in Soviet public life. It has become a matter of fierce debate as disenchantment with the party's grip on power grows and fast-developing reform movements sweep through the Soviet allies in East Europe.

Hungary has dropped the name "communist" from the party's name and is preparing for multiparty elections. Poland has installed a non-communist prime minister, Czechoslovakia is to announce a non-communist-dominated government today and East Germany recently repealed the communists' monopoly on power.



Kremlin's top ideologist Vladimir Medvedev points his finger as he tells reporters the Soviet Communist Party could eventually relinquish its leading role in Soviet society during a news conference in Moscow after a one-day plenum of the Central Committee. (Reuters wirephoto)

**New role**

Kremlin's top ideologist Vladimir Medvedev points his finger as he tells reporters the Soviet Communist Party could eventually relinquish its leading role in Soviet society during a news conference in Moscow after a one-day plenum of the Central Committee. (Reuters wirephoto)

**MOSCOW, Dec 10, (AP):** Vladimir A. Ivashko, who became the 12th member of the Soviet Communist Party's ruling Politburo yesterday, is an economist and engineer who less than three months ago took over the largest republic party organisation in the country.

An advocate of price reform to streamline the Soviet Union's often irrational economic structure, Ivashko, 57, replaced the veteran conservative Vladimir V. Shcherbitsky, who ruled the Ukrainian Communist Party machine for 17 years.

He described himself in a recent article in the government newspaper Izvestia as "a stubborn supporter of choosing leaders from below."

**Politburo — full members**

Mikhail Gorbachev, Communist Party General Secretary and Soviet President (born March 1931)

Vladimir Medvedev, Ideology Commission chief (March 1929)

Yegor Ligachev, Agriculture Commission chief (Nov 1920)

Nikolai Ryzhikov, Prime Minister (Sept 1929)

Edward Shevardnadze, Foreign Minister (Jan 1928)

Nikolai Silyukov, Socio-Economic Commission chief, (Apr 1929)

Viktor Vorotnikov, President of Russian Federation (Jan 1926)

Alexander Yakovlev, international commission chief (Dec 1923)

Lev Zaikov, deputy head of state defence council (Apr 1922)

Vladimir Kryushkov, KGB chief (Feb 1924)

Yury Maslyukov, state economic planning chief (Sept 1937)

Vladimir Ivashko, Ukraine party chief (1932)

**Politburo — candidate members**

Alexander Biryukov, Deputy Prime Minister for Social, Labour and Women's Affairs (Jan 1929)

Anatoly Lukyanov, first Deputy Chairman of Supreme Soviet (Vice-President) (May 1930)

Georgiy Razumovsky, party personnel commission chief (Jan 1936)

Alexander Vlasov, Russian Federation Prime Minister (Jan 1932)

Dmitry Yazov, Defence Minister (Nov 1923)

Yevgeny Primakov, head of council of the union (one of two chambers of the Supreme Soviet) (Oct 1929)

Boris Fyogo, head of party control commission (Feb 1937)

## Baltic elections

### Reds face ouster

TALLINN, USSR, Dec 10, (AP): Communists are likely to lose power in Estonia and Latvia in local elections, according to polls taken in the Baltic republics.

"The past comes to an end today," the grassroots pro-democracy People's Front proclaimed in Latvia in an pre-election appeal asking voters to wrest power from the communists.

Results will be keenly monitored since they are the first of the country's 15 republics to hold elections for municipal councils under new rules allowing voters a choice of candidates.

Balloting also coincided with rising debate over the role of communists and Thursday's vote by the legislature of the third Baltic republic, Lithuania, to revoke the constitutional clause guaranteeing communist supremacy in society and political life.

In Estonia, more than 9,000 candidates are vying to fill 4,200 seats in city and rural councils throughout the Soviet Union's least populous republic with 1.6 million inhabitants.

Polls showed the most popular candidates are environmentalists, or "Greens," with ethnic Estonians favouring the People's Front and the Russians favouring workers' associations with close links to communists.

"But if both ethnic and non-ethnic Estonians are considered, our opinion polls indicate 50 per cent support for the Greens — by far the best support. The communists would get under 10 per cent," said Juhan Kivirahk, from Estonia's department of public opinion and market research.

Non-communists are running on platforms ranging from environmental protection and economic reform to total independence for this Baltic state, absorbed into the Soviet Union through a 1939 non-aggression pact with Nazi Germany.

A subtle issue only quietly discussed is the tension between ethnic Estonians and immigrants, mainly Russians, comprising about 40 per cent of the republic's population.

"I cannot openly declare that I am anti-Russian, but every Estonian knows which candidate is against the Russians," Ain Roopson, an independent candidate, said in an interview.

## Support for Gorby sought

Hungary ideal springboard

BUDAPEST, Dec 10, (Reuters): Hungarian Prime Minister Miklos Nemeth will urge Britain during a visit there this week to help boost Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev's reforms by offering material support for the Soviet economy.

Nemeth, a pioneer of economic and political reforms in East Europe, says he will also tell Thatcher that Hungary was well-placed to take advantage of the new markets that are likely to open up in the Soviet Union and its allies as they modernise their economies.

"I am convinced Hungary could be a very good springboard for the Soviet market, especially if we succeed in making Hungarian-Soviet trade on a convertible currency basis," he said.

Nemeth said among issues he would be raising with Thatcher would be the list of restrictions on high-technology exports to communist countries imposed by Cocom, the 17-nation co-ordinating committee for multilateral export controls.

"Wherever we go, we always raise the damned list. I will be raising it in London."

He said however he was aware that the Cocom countries required some guarantees on the question of high-technology transfer. His Foreign Minister Gyula Horn had put some proposals on this issue to US officials during a recent visit to Washington but there had been no response so far.

Apart from Thatcher, Nemeth will meet Deputy Prime Minister Sir Geoffrey Howe, Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd and Chancellor (finance minister) John Major.

Nemeth warned unemployment will double and a legislator said the economy could be bankrupt, as they continued talks with the opposition yesterday.

"No one should be allowed to do anything that will make his (Gorbachev's) job more difficult," he said. "What is required is tolerance, understand-

## Allied ambassadors to discuss the role of Berlin

WEST BERLIN, Dec 10, (AP): World War II allies France, Britain, the Soviet Union and the United States plan a major conference tomorrow to discuss the role of Berlin in East-West affairs, sources said today.

The sources in West Berlin said the four power conference would be the first since the 1971 meeting that drew up the agreement establishing the allies' rights in the city.

Ambassadors from the four nations will discuss what the United States calls the "Berlin initiative," said the sources who spoke to the Associated Press on the condition of anonymity.

That plan, outlined by then-President Ronald Reagan during a visit to Berlin in 1987, calls for making West Berlin a center for international conferences and youth exchanges. It also calls for improving air traffic to the city and suggests West Berlin

as the site of the Olympic Games in the future.

The city has become the center of intense speculation, following the East Germans' Nov 9 decision to let its citizens travel freely to the West.

Leaders in West Berlin have said that reshuffling of power in East Germany in recent weeks requires a revision of the city's role.

The sources said formal announcement

of the conference was planned later today.

US Secretary of State James A. Baker was scheduled to arrive in West Berlin late tomorrow, but it was not immediately known whether his visit was connected to the four power conference.

The 1971 four power agreement established, among other things, the duty of the Soviets to allow unhindered air, rail and automobile traffic between West Berlin and East Berlin.

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# Unified GCC telephone network postponed

## Posts department re-organised

THERE have been no discussions on the establishment of a unified regional telephone network by the council of ministers of communications in the GCC states at their meeting held in the UAE recently, according to Abdullah Al Sharhan, minister of communications.

However, the official said that as the GCC states are using several and diverse telephone sets and systems, these pose some obstacles in the unification of specifications of telephone sets in the GCC states. These hurdles can be overcome with the engagement of experienced technical staff to study these specifications and to co-ordinate expertise among the GCC states to bring about a unification of specifications.

Sharhan pointed out that the ministry enhanced the telephone network at Nuzha Central by increasing its capacity by transferring 30,000 new telephone lines from Kuwait City's Central to Nuzha Area and by changing the old lines with new links. Work is expected to be completed before the end of next year, the official said.

Detailed studies about tele-

phone services in Kuwait have been undertaken to evaluate the existing services and with a view to develop them. These studies include proposals to develop the administration and equipment to cope with communications systems in advanced countries. A study about government mobile telephone services is also being undertaken and a final decision on this particular service will be taken in the coming few months, Sharhan said.

Sharhan pointed out that the ministry re-organised the postal department to redress several problems and gaps existing in the

previous structure. These related to selecting the best cadres and qualifications to occupy leading and middle posts; using developed equipment and machines to provide postal services such as stamp vending machine, automatic sorting of letters, offering post boxes in all post offices and there is an intention to have a post box for every house in Kuwait, the official said.

Additionally, the ministry has appointed 50 postmen to solve problem of distribution of letters in different areas, Sharhan said.



Police Academy Training Course

The second computer training course was opened yesterday at the Police Academy. Director-general of the academy, Brig Khalid Al Muneer, opened the course, which was attended by a number of high ranking officers and is aimed at computerising all work procedures.

Computers will speed up formalities at the General Traffic Administration, nationality department, passport and residence departments, and facilitate the issue of visit visas, police information, storage of fingerprints and other services.

## Wireless abusers will be penalised

THE director of the Control, Frequencies and Wireless Licensing Department at the Ministry of Communications Sammy Khaled Al Amer has said that the ministry submitted a draft bill to the Council of Ministers providing for firm penalties against abusers of wireless equipment.

He said in the course of a lecture to the participants in the international telecommunications course for amateurs that the penalties could reach a fine of KD2,000 or a jail term not exceeding six months.

He added that the draft bill was designed to sort out all shortcomings of the existing law.

He stressed the department was operating round-the-clock to trace the source of nuisance calls made through the citizen band, and described the use of wireless equipment to telecast songs and music on Channel 16 which is allocated for transmission of help calls as improper behaviour could jeopardise people's lives.

# Legal Clinic

IF you have a legal problem, labour or any other kind. Send your questions to Arab Times, Legal Clinic. Our Kuwaiti lawyer Khaled Taker replies to readers queries. Write to Legal Clinic, Arab Times, P.O. Box 2270, 13023 Safat, Kuwait or fax your questions on Fax No. 4847495.

I HAVE been working in a ministry; my wife is a domestic on no. 20 with a Kuwaiti employer. Before coming to Kuwait, she was working in an office. Now, a company is prepared to give her a working visa, no. 18. She is five months pregnant at the moment. If she gets the work permit, can she cancel the domestic visa and re-enter on no. 18 visa?

Is there any problem regarding medical tests in India and Kuwait? If she takes a letter from the sponsor and the doctor, is it alright?

S. Fernandez.

SHE can re-enter Kuwait on a visa no. 18. She must cancel her no. 20 visa. The medical tests are conducted in Kuwait after a person's arrival. As she will enter as a new migrant, she'll have to undergo all medical tests, which is the normal procedure. However, if she has records of medical tests done previously, she can take them to re-open her file.

I AM an American English language instructor. A disgruntled student, an adult of legal age, recently circulated a petition about me to the other students. Since the petition was written in Arabic, and the exhortations to sign spoken in Arabic, I don't know the exact details. My supervisor has spoken to this student, but to no avail. At that time I was told that the student threatened to publish a letter (about what, I'm not sure) in the newspaper. I'm tired of this student telling other people stories which I can neither confirm nor deny. I feel this may affect my professional status. Do I have any legal recourse for slander, libel and defamation of character?

Anonymous.

YOU CAN take legal action for slander, libel and defamation of character. But to do this, you must obtain a copy of the petition distributed by the student, and get it translated from Arabic to English.

If you can send a copy of the petition, I'll be in a better position to advise you on the type of case that can be filed and the law regarding your case.

A criminal case is made in cases relating to slander, libel or defamation of character. Compensation can also be claimed. Kuwait's Criminal Law, article no. 209 to 212 cover such instances, which are many and varied. If the other party is found guilty, he/she is liable to imprisonment.

As I said earlier, I'll be in a better position to advise you if I know the exact nature of your case. Please send a copy of

the petition. It is also advisable to find out details about the contents of the petition.

WHAT is the minimum age limit for visa no. 18 for a female?

AS I told one of the readers last week, the minimum age limit is 18 years and the maximum 50.

I AM a Filipino seaman, contracted by a Dutch shipping company, our employer I was recruited by a company in the Philippines. I worked for a Kuwaiti-owned ship, chartered by another country. My contract expired in October. But I would like to ask you if I can seek compensation during the extended services rendered to the company? To whom should I direct my claim?

Seaman.

YOUR employer — the company which hired you — is responsible for payment. It does not matter who the ship's owner was, or which country chartered it. The contract made between you and your employer is important — whoever that employer may be, and accordingly you can claim compensation from that company.

I STUDIED in Kuwait. I have completed schooling and don't want to study further. I want to work. I am 17 years old, and living here on a student visa. I would like to obtain a work permit. At what age can I seek a transfer to visa no. 18 — after 18 years or 19 years. What is the procedure?

Raja.

THE minimum age to obtain a work permit is 18 years. To obtain a work permit, you first have to find a job, and a sponsor willing to give you visa no. 18. Once this has been done, you'll have to cancel the student visa, leave Kuwait and re-enter on the fresh work permit. A local transfer of residence may be possible if you can take permission from the Minister of Social Affairs and Labour to transfer the residence locally.

I CAME to Kuwait in March 1984 on visa no. 20. I worked for my sponsor until 1987. Last year, he gave me a release and I joined another sponsor in 1988. Now I want a release letter. But he does not give it to me and says he will stamp a red seal in my passport and send me back to my country.

Yousuf.

THE only thing you can do is file a case to get a release letter and the passport from

your sponsor. It is, however, advisable to explain your problem and discuss the matter with your new sponsor in a nice manner.

I AM currently working as a supervisor in a hotel in Bahrain. A Kuwaiti guest left our hotel without settling his bill of KD365 two years ago. The management has deducted this sum owed by the guest, from my salary. This was done because I was held responsible for the guest. I managed to contact the guest in Kuwait at his residence. He promised to pay the amount in due course. Unfortunately, nothing happened.

In desperation, I contacted the Kuwaiti Embassy in Bahrain, where officials were very co-operative. The guest was contacted and I was to be paid by June 25 this year. However, nothing materialised.

Please advise me what course of action I should now take to get back my money?

S. Ali.

YOU can file a case in Kuwait against the guest if you can prove in a court that he did not settle the bill. This can be done with relevant documents proving the guest stayed at the hotel, the duration of his stay, and any records saying he didn't settle the bill. You'll also need a certificate from the hotel management, saying the amount was deducted from your salary. To take legal action, you'll have to get a lawyer in Kuwait to follow up the case.

I AM working in a private company. I want to change my profession to my passport as well as on my residence permit. I hold a valid residence permit for my present profession. Please advise me how to change my profession without any obligation.

YOU can get the changed profession endorsed on your passport from your sponsor only by the government issuing a new passport. Once this has been accomplished, you must approach the Immigration Department and Labour Department for a change of residence. Officials will guide you on how to get the new profession endorsed on your residence file.

In case you decide to change your profession, the new career must be similar to the job you hold. For example, if you are presently a businessman, you can't become a mechanic. Such changes are generally not accepted.

## VACANCY

A major company operating in the field of tendering in the oil and petrochemical sector is looking for

An active and dynamic person

To supervise its tendering activities.

Interested persons should possess the following:

- 1) Previous working experience in the same field.
- 2) Valid and transferable residence.
- 3) Valid Kuwaiti driving licence with a car.
- 4) Knowledge of English — spoken and written.

Salary will be decided in view of candidate's prequalifications.

Interested candidates can send their C.V.'s to P.O. Box 1668 Safat, Kuwait 13017.

## UK, Oman discuss Gulf peace efforts

Waldegrave in Muscat

MUSCAT, Dec 10, (AP): British Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs William Waldegrave met yesterday with Omani Foreign Minister Youssef Bin Alawi for talks which centered on UN efforts to resume peace negotiations between Gulf war enemies Iran and Iraq, officials said.

The two ministers also discussed the situation on the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, the Lebanese Crisis and bilateral ties, said the officials quoted by the Oman News Agency. The officials were not named.

Oman has been actively engaged in trying to foster the Iraq-Iran peacemaking process as it prepares to host later this month the annual summit meeting of the 6-nation Gulf Co-operation Council.

The Sultanate shares control of the strategic Strait of Hormuz, the gateway to the Gulf, with Iran with whom it enjoys good relations. It has been using these ties to mediate between Tehran and Baghdad to help UN efforts to turn an August 1980 cease-fire into a formal peace pact.

The UN efforts are based on Security Council resolution 598 in whose preparation Britain played an extensive role, and the GCC countries have been pressing Britain and other permanent members of the UN Security Council to prod the quest for the Iraq-Iran peace pact.

The 8-year Iraq-Iran war which started in 1980 had vast security and economic fallout on the rest of the Gulf littoral states represented in the GCC which groups Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates and Oman.

Alawi recently hosted his Iranian counterpart Ali Akbar Velayati for talks on the peace bid, and there are unconfirmed reports that the Sultanate is seeking to arrange a peace summit for the Iraqi and Iranian presidents.

Velayati's deputy, Ali Mohammed Besharati was meanwhile touring other GCC states, to review development of bilateral ties. He visited both the UAE and Qatar yesterday.

With the exception of Saudi Arabia, which ruptured ties with Tehran in April 1988 after accusing the Persian state of terrorism and subversion, relations between GCC capitals and Tehran have been generally upbeat since the cease-fire.

Waldegrave, whose country has traditionally strong political, military and economic ties with Oman, came on the third leg of a tour of the countries of the Southern Arabian Peninsula.

## S&C Bank

### approves 550 loans in Nov

A REPORT issued by the Saving & Credit Bank showed that bank approved 550 loans for real estate projects and for social purposes during last month (November). The report added that these loans are of the value of about KD6.8 million. 143 of these loans were given for construction projects (real estate) which cost about KD6 million. These loans were allocated for buying or building new houses by citizens. Some of the loans were for maintaining houses.

The report added that social loans for citizens who were married reached 407 during last month and cost about KD814,000.

Commenting on loans that have been already paid to citizens during November, the report said that bank paid KD8.3 million as different loans including KD7.4 million spent on real estate projects. The report added that bank collected about KD3.1 million from debtors during the last month. The loans paid by the bank for citizens until end of last month reached about KD1,023 million beside KD64 million as decided and approved loans that had not yet been paid for citizens. The report added that the bank opened 1,364 new accounts including 161 accounts for deposits.

## ATA APPROVED TRAINING CENTRE

ATA APPROVED TRAINING CENTRE



Aviation secretarial seminar

Skyline Institute of Boodal Aviation concluded two weeks 'Aviation Secretarial Seminar' on December 6, '89. The secretaries of top commercial companies of Kuwait attended and it was conducted by Adly Moawad, Kamel Puri, George Andrews and Husni Al Samadi. The participants were awarded completion certificates. The Skyline Institute is specialised in travel and tourism education.

## US replaces carrier force with battleship in Gulf

MANAMA, Dec 10, (AP): In a quiet shift of policy, the United States has replaced its aircraft carrier force in the Indian Ocean with a battleship, leaving the region uncovered by a carrier for the first time in more than three years.

The 58,000-tonne US New Jersey, one of four World War II-vintage battleships restored to active duty in recent years, arrived this month to replace the carrier USS Midway, which had patrolled the waters just outside the Arabian Gulf since September.

### Action

On Thursday, the New Jersey sailed through the Strait of Hormuz into the Gulf to make a series of port calls, the first American capital ship to enter the strategic waterway in modern times, according to Pentagon officials. A capital ship is a warship of first rank in armaments and size.

A Pentagon spokesman, Army Col Keith Schneider, called the movement a "routine operation to demonstrate a continuing US commitment to the region."

By coincidence, it came as Iran began a week of naval manoeuvres in the south-

ern Gulf, described by Tehran Radio as the largest such exercise since 1979. It was the second major drill since Iraq and Iran agreed to a ceasefire in August, 1989, ending their eight-year war.

During the war, US aircraft carriers and battleships operated in the north Arabian Sea and sometimes ventured into the outer straits, but never entered the Gulf. US officials said the huge ships' presence in the narrow waterway was unnecessary and would doubtless be seen, especially by Iran, as a provocation.

The New Jersey, first brought out of mothballs during the Vietnam War and again in the early 1980s, carries its original nine 16-inch (41-cm) guns but has been upgraded with an array of modern weaponry including long-range Tomahawk cruise missiles.

It last saw action off the coast of Lebanon in 1983, firing in support of US marines on a peacekeeping mission. The bombardment proved controversial when the guns hit civilian areas.

Rear Adm. William M. Fogarty, Commander of the US Joint Task Force Middle East that includes the navy's 10-ship force in the Gulf and the Indian Ocean support unit, is a former skipper of the New Jersey. He left the ship just

prior to its assignment off Lebanon. Defence Department officials, speaking on condition they not be named, said the ship would visit the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain, but was denied permission to enter a Saudi Arabian port.

Although other US Navy ships regularly visit Doha, a Saudi oil centre where about 11,000 Americans live, the Saudis, like other Gulf Arab states, are sensitive about foreign military presence.

Replacing the Midway with a battleship leaves the United States without a combat air strike capability in the Gulf region. The reason for the change was not spelled out, but clearly reflected Pentagon confidence that no crisis requiring US carrier forces was likely to arise.

Naval sources, asking not to be identified, said budget considerations may have been a factor. While both are accompanied by half a dozen or more escorts, a battleship carries a crew of about 1,500 compared to 5,000 for a carrier, and logistics for a carrier force are far greater.

The New Jersey's deployment was

expected to last about three months. It could be replaced by another battleship or by a carrier battle group, the naval sources said.

Maj. Olin Saunders, a spokesman at US Central Command headquarters in Tampa, Florida, said the last time the United States lacked a carrier in the Indian Ocean was a five-month stretch from April to September 1986.

### Commitment

He cited a Pentagon statement of last June which said, "there may be times, as was the case before the Iraq-Iran war and before the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan, that there will not be a carrier battle group operating in the Indian Ocean."

It said this, "in no way diminishes our commitment to the security of the region... the Arabian Gulf is a region of vital US interest and we have always maintained sufficient forces to do so."

"The presence of the New Jersey in the area is consistent with that policy," Saunders said.

Prior to 1979, carriers were deployed only intermittently to "Gonzo Station," as the Indian Ocean is known in US Navy circles. But the hostage crisis in Iran, and

then the Iraq-Iran war, mandated the nearly continuous presence of a carrier in the North Arabian Sea to support the permanent US naval force in the Gulf.

When the Gulf-based force was expanded in 1987 in response to the escalating "tanker war" threatening Gulf oil shipping, two battle groups — one headed by an aircraft carrier and the other by a battleship — were deployed to the area.

That ended when the USS Iowa, a sister ship of the New Jersey, left in February 1988 and was not replaced. Since then, a carrier force has remained in the area, although tensions have diminished sharply since the Iraq-Iran truce and the Soviet pullout from Afghanistan a year ago.

The most powerful US warships in the Gulf during the war were the USS Guadalcanal and USS Okinawa, both helicopter carriers, and the Aegis-type missile cruiser USS Vincennes, which mistakenly shot down an Iranian Airbus, killing all 290 aboard, on July 3, 1988.

The only combat role for the American jet carriers occurred on April 18, 1988, when aircraft from the USS Enterprise participated in a one-day war between US and Iranian naval forces, in which six Iranian vessels were sunk or damaged.

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# Amir to attend GCC summit in Muscat

## Kuwait to participate in Arab-European talks

KUWAIT, Dec 10, (Kuna): His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah will take part in the 10th GCC summit scheduled for December 18 in Muscat at the head of a high-ranking delegation, it was officially announced here today.

The Kuwaiti cabinet, meeting here today under chairmanship of HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdulla Al Salem Al Sabah was informed of the composition of the delegation accompanying HH the Amir.

In statements after the cabinet session, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Rashed Abdel Aziz Al Rashed said HH would be accompanied by Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister, Petroleum Minister, State Minister for Cabinet Affairs, Ministers of Finance, Commerce and Industry and Kuwaiti Ambassadors to Muscat and other officials from the Amir's Diwan, Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Finance, Commerce and Industry and a press and information delegation.

The cabinet was informed of the message received by HH the Amir from King Hassan II of Morocco in his capacity as current chairman of the Arab summit which dealt with the proposal by French President Francois Mitterrand, current chairman of the European Economic Community for resumption of Arab-European dialogue at foreign ministers' level expected to convene in Paris on the 22nd of this month.

The meeting was also apprised on the reply message by HH to King Hassan which contained the Amir's acceptance of the invitation and Kuwait's participation

in the dialogue to further boost Arab-European understanding.

The cabinet welcomed the French president's initiative and hoped that this positive step would contribute to more co-operation between the Arab and European groups for the interests of both sides.

HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister briefed the session on the meeting held Tuesday evening at Bayan Palace with representatives of the government and private sectors who prepared studies and reports related to the economic situation in the country.

HH informed the ministers on the ideas and remarks reviewed with the representatives of means of implementing the endorsed guidelines and principles which represent the core of studies and reports reached to activate the economic cycle in various sectors and activities.

HH praised the positive spirit and sincere desire shown by all participants to realise the constructive co-operation in achieving the common objective, Rashed said.

He said Sheikh Saad also urged the ministers, each in his field, to promptly adopt all measures necessary to implement the approved recommendations and to enhance the efforts of the committee entrusted with following up and implementing the recommendations compiled by the joint economic committee in such a manner that would ensure the desired results of activating the economic movement and strengthening the national economy.

Rashed stated that Interior Minister

Sheikh Salem Al Sabah informed the council of ministers of the 8th session of the Council of Arab Interior Ministers, concluded recently in Cairo. The cabinet was acquainted with the issues tackled by the session pertaining to means of fostering co-operation and co-ordination among Arab countries in security spheres within the frame-work of joint Arab action.

Sheikh Salem, Rashed went on, also briefed the cabinet on his meetings with senior Egyptian officials during his stay in Cairo which focussed on the brotherly relations between the two countries.

**Investments**  
Finance Minister Jassem Al Khorafi apprised the cabinet of the outcome of his talks with Moroccan Finance Minister Mohammed Barada during his visit to Kuwait last week which dealt with bilateral financial and investment relations between the countries and means of promoting them.

Khorafi also informed the cabinet of his discussions with the Senegalese Finance and Economy Minister during his current visit to the country which centered on bilateral relations, Rashed said.

Commerce and Industry Minister, Faisal Abdul Razzaq Al Khalid, Rashed added, briefed the cabinet on his recent visit to Iraq to inaugurate the Kuwaiti commercial week and the talks he conducted with senior Iraqi officials during the visit which tackled various aspects of bilateral co-operation especially ways of activating trade exchange between the two countries.

Planning and Acting Public Health

Minister Dr Abdul Rahman Al Awadhi briefed the session on the results of the visit to the country last week by Mauritanian Health and Social Affairs Minister N'jani Kan which focussed on means of enhancing bilateral co-operation in addition to issues of mutual interest.

Rashed said Dr Awadhi also informed the session of the outcome of the preparatory meeting about prime health care held recently in Geneva to discuss means of co-operation and co-ordination of efforts aimed at developing health care on global level.

The council of ministers also took note of the minutes of the ministerial planning committee and discussed the recommendations proposed by the committee regarding the current population structure, labour force and basic projects within the framework of the forthcoming five-year plan. The cabinet endorsed the committee's recommendations in this connection, Rashed said.

The cabinet also listened to a briefing by Oil Minister Sheikh Ali Al Khalifa on the details of the economic study on construction of the petro-chemical complex at Shuaiba Industrial Area and various aspects of economic feasibility of the project, its estimated construction cost, production capacity, and use and marketing of its products.

After debating all details of the project, the cabinet resolved to refer them to the economic and financial committee for further study, Rashed said.

The meeting also reviewed the minutes of the recent session of the municipal committee and approved its resolutions.

# Economic report optimistic: experts

## Small debt settlement lauded

THE Joint Economic Committee's report prepared with the aim of pushing forward the national economy made several recommendations which have been well received in all quarters and reflect the state's concern to improve the national economy and eventually reactivate the investment movement in the country.

Jassem Al Sadoun, economic expert and director of Al Shall Office for Economic Consultations said: "I do agree with the report contents, particularly those related to the settlement of small debts. These he described as constituting 55 per cent of the debtors, with total amount of debt amounting to KD55 million." This amount which constitutes 2.5 per cent of the total debt does not justify the laborious efforts of the authorities in redressing this issue the official said.

He went on to comment that he was not in accord with the recommendations set forth in the relevant report that permitted debtors to liquidate their assets to improve their financial standing. The official said that it is standard procedure that such assets fall within the legal jurisdiction of the creditors in so far as the debtors fail to settle their debts.

**Understanding**  
Also commenting on the report, Mohammed Al Saif, general manager of Gulf Bank was quoted as saying that the report in general was good and was designed to enhance the general economic march of the state and do away with red tape prevailing in the state's authorities.

"We are very proud of the mutual understanding and co-operation between the government and the private sector that has been highlighted in the report," Saif said.

He added that the recent econ-

omic report has reiterated the fact that the private sector is complementing the efforts of the government and are eventually directed to supporting and protecting economic activity and related activities in the country. He described the co-operation between the government and the private sector in bringing out the highlights of this economic report as a concrete evidence of the efficacy of this co-operative spirit demonstrated by both parties for the first time.

**Optimism**  
In particular, he praised the recommendations relating to the settlement of small debts as ideal and an outstanding example of the co-operative efforts undertaken by the government and the private sector. This effort has in no small measure contributed to saving the state huge administrative financial losses and opened the way towards enhancing the uptake of the financial transactions in Kuwait.

Also speaking on the issue, Hamad Mohammed Al Bahar, Chairman of Kuwait Investment Company (KIC) said that the report has indeed created a lot of optimism in the financial circles and community of Kuwait and that the most important recommendation related to that which dealt with the banking support and the guarantees to be extended by the state to preserve the right of these banks locally and internationally.

One real estate dealer said that the report will go a long way in solving all the economic problems prevailing in the country. However, he stressed on the need to carry out the relevant proposals seriously. The individual praised the efforts exerted in this respect by the government and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

However, he was critical of the

bank's effort in not setting up or recommending any solutions to settling debts exceeding KD250,000 and the failure of the report to contain any encouraging percentage of discounts or incentives for this denominated of debtors. He called for radical and urgent solutions to address these types of debts.

Speaking of the free zone in Kuwait, a merchant said that a memo in this connection had been submitted to the authority concerned in 1964. However, said to state, no resolution in this connection had been adopted till date. Conversely, in the neighbouring state of Dubai, for example, the relevant solution was issued within one week.

The merchant further stated that overlapping of functions between the Central Bank and the local banks constituted an administrative burden to both sides and is an obstacle towards enhancing the economic upswing of the country.

A dealer in the stock exchange praised the important role accorded to the private sector in the Joint Economic Committee report as an indication that the government intends to denationalise some public corporations. He confirmed that the contribution of the private sector in the construction and housing sectors by providing priority to local contracting companies will directly and effectively push forward the economic process.

The pragmatic approach to giving confidence to the private sector and prohibiting the awarding of tenders to sub-contractors and imposing of strict penalties on violators will minimise the role of foreign companies in the country and provide every opportunity to enhance the technical expertise and capabilities of local engineering and construction firms and also the team of local expertise, the dealer said.

## MTSC to lower rates for model subscribers

TO encourage telephone subscribers to reduce the number of calls a study recommends granting a reduction in the annual subscription charges, according to Abdullah Al Sabaj, chairman of the Mobile Telephone Services Company.

Explaining the recommendations of the study the official said that the company could in the future give a ten per cent reduction in the amount of the annual subscription to subscribers who do not speak for more than the allocated 500 minutes a month. It is expected that the recommendations of the study will be applicable in the beginning of the new year.

The intended recommendation is being proposed with a view to reduce pressure on the central of the mobile telephone company and to expand the capacity of the central. However, he said that the company has called for a tender to build a new and modern central and to import new telephone sets.

The new central is expected to begin working in February 1991 and is also expected to reduce the price of the car telephones from KD400 to 300.

Sabaj pointed out that the number of subscribers amount to 19,000 although the capacity of the central is 50,000 lines. He explained that the central is actually able to serve only 21,000 to 22,000 subscribers simultaneously as the system is bound to operate on the basis of the duration of calls spoken by subscribers at a given time together.

The company does not aim at collecting profits from subscribers, but the peak hours are limited to 4 to 5 hours daily with a view to reduce the pressure on the central.

The time units spoken by subscribers during the peak hours are priced on the higher levels, but subscribers on the other side are compensated in the form of 600 time units (minutes) being given free of charge every month.

These number of units are sufficient because 70 per cent of subscribers do not avail of this limit and the official said that the minority of subscribers should follow the same pattern of the majority.

Many of the subscribers have acknowledged that the new prices of the company have obliged them to use the telephone in the proper manner Sabaj said and this is reflected in the average time of the call through the mobile telephone being reduced from 5 to 6 minutes to only 2.8 minutes.

The official said that most telephone calls originate from Salmiya and Hawalli Areas, followed by Shuwaikh and Arab Gulf Street. The high rise buildings at the Arab Gulf Street pose a serious technical problem for the central to receive and transmit calls issued from the street, Sabaj said, but added that this problem will be solved after the establishment of a station near the Amir Hospital.

Subscribers who desire to use their car telephones in Bahrain can do so after getting a licence from the company. They are given certain telephone numbers and guided in their usage in Bahrain when Kuwait's coverage is stopped.



The simple life out of doors, in the desert

## Residents prepare to depart for the desert

By Fares Al Salman

MOST Kuwait residents are making preparations to receive the spring season by camping out in the desert with tents. However some desert campers have raised complaints mainly represented in the form of reckless youths and the random distribution of camps.

Seyassa interviewed a number of campers to ascertain their views with regard to camping in the desert during this season. Campers interviewed also commented on decisions made lately by officials to organise camps, and other promises made like opening a complex which include all necessary services such as a police centre, and other centres for emergencies, municipality and a canteen. These promises, in general, did not materialise was the consensus opinion.

Abdul Karzem Al Khaleefa who was camping in the Mishrif desert stated that campers have yet to establish their camps due to the fact that most government services provided are not complete. He said that several decisions made with regard to organising camps by the special numbering system, and establishing a police centre and a canteen are not yet implemented. Such services are essential for campers and will significantly contribute to inconveniences caused.

Yaqoub Yousif Al Duaij stated that he and his family are accustomed to camping and have been establishing camps for as long as 20 years. He added that he preferred Mishrif desert to other camping

grounds, adding that that he considers the desert to be the only breather out of city noises and jams. He stated that in previous times camping was unorganised and had many problems but, now after these areas have been organised going camping has become an event looked forward to.

Sulaiman Al Madrees said that camping breaks the ordinary routine of daily life. He added that many camp owners presented complaints to security men against young boys, particularly those who practice the sport of motorcycling in the desert.

**Simple life**  
Adel Al Shama stated that a person could find a lot of joy in the desert while camping particularly since it is a way out of city life. He stressed that campers should bear in mind that the original idea was to get away from the easy living conditions of the city and to get closer to nature. He added that they should recognise that it is not essential that the government should provide all utilities and services but, rather live a simple life.

Shama stressed that one of the important services which should be present at camping grounds is security patrols to combat the recklessness of youngsters. He added that speedy measures should be taken to prevent problems.

Yousif Al Mslam said that after being accustomed to spending the spring holiday in the desert it was impossible for him and the rest of his family to stay at home. He added that desert camping is a good opportunity to release tension and stress and called for speedier measures to organise camps.

## Farwaniya requires more medical centres, says Ali

THE director of the Farwaniya Health Area Dr Sulaiman Faleh Al Ali has denied the existence of firmly-established groups formed by shared personal interests at medical centres in the area.

Despite the number of existing medical centres in the area, there is still an urgent need for more health and medical services in the area due to the high population density and continuous construction of new urban residential areas, the official said.

He added that when the Farwaniya Hospital was originally built it was designed to provide services to 250,000 inhabitants in the area. The continuous rise in the population is attributed to the construction of new model investment areas in Jleeb Al Shuyoukh, Farwaniya, Abraq Khaitan, Riggai, which led to the availability of more flats at reasonable prices which caused a wave of immigration.

He added that over the coming five years steps would be taken to find effective measures intended

to alleviate the pressure on the area's medical facilities.

**Study**

Intensive studies are currently under way to expand the hospital in Farwaniya in order to end the suffering of the medical, administrative and nursing staff. Priorities will be assigned to start with expanding certain divisions, such as the divisions of maternity, paediatrics, gynaecology, internal medicine, ICU for patients with heart disorders, general surgery, urinary tract infections, physiotherapy, and others.

The medical and nursing staff at the hospital were of the best calibre in the country, and all staff are co-operating and endeavouring to provide the best possible services to out-patients and in-patients, Ali said.

He pointed out that mistakes committed by one doctor or nurse should not be generalised to ruin the reputation of all, as these mistakes were but individual cases and if any doctor

or nurse were involved in an intentional miscarriage of duties or ill-treatment of patients they would have to face legal responsibility.

He said that statistically the number of out-patients that visited the hospital in 1989 were 83,265, and patients visiting the casualties ward 150,744, while those who underwent surgical operations were 14,270 and the number of medical analyses made 1,217,189.

The total number of deliveries performed at the hospital by Caesarean section did not exceed 6.5 per cent, compared to the percentage of similar deliveries performed elsewhere at the other hospitals in Kuwait.

Diseases most common in Farwaniya were seasonal diseases, with no epidemic cases having been registered, Ali said. He added that the medical staff at the prevention health department were very efficient and competent in handling emergency cases.

## Audit bureau HQ tender to be issued this month

A TENDER for the construction of a building solely for the use of the Auditing Bureau is to be issued this month, according to Fares Al Wigayan, chairman of the bureau.

Commenting on the policy of Kuwaitisation, the official said that the bureau is concerned with the quality of employees and not quantity and the bureau is painstakingly pursuing a policy of recruiting the ideal Kuwaiti for placement in positions where expertise will be most prominent. The present strength of the staff is about 250 employees and the bureau is setting up a committee to develop the administrative cadre.

Wigayan pointed out that it is natural that auditing and control work is resented by the ministries. However, the official said that the auditing bureau tries to develop the concept of control that is adopted by ministries and their ministries.

Control is a kind of co-operation to protect and maintain public funds and when any mistakes are discovered, these are brought to the notice of the relevant ministers at the time of closing of accounts so as to avoid a repetition in the future.

He disclosed that HH the Amir and HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister always support the AB and the bureau is further supported by the co-operation extended by the various ministries.

The reports of the Audit Bureau on the closing accounts of the ministries and government establishments are secret and cannot be revealed to the public.

## Education draft

KUWAIT, Dec 10, (Kuna): Higher Education Minister Dr Ali Al Shamlan has said that his ministry has completed a draft law for higher education and distributed it to the concerned institutions for further review.

Shamlan, in a statement to "Al-Afak" the university newsletter published today, added that he will soon visit Cairo at the invitation of his Egyptian counterpart Ahmad Sarout to discuss higher education affairs and means of boosting bilateral co-operation in this field.

## Civil defence training

The second batch of female civil defence volunteers continue with theoretical training at the headquarters of the General Department of Civil Defence. The training started last Tuesday and will last until Dec 13, 1989. The next day, marks the first day of practical training ending on Jan 24, 1990.

Theoretical training presented to volunteers include three programmes on the general civil defence strategy, early warning and protection from air raids in addition to other lectures on industrial security and first aid.

Practical courses include rescue operations, belt applications, and treatment of emergency cases like poisoning, accidents, bleeding and fractures.

Li Col Ali Al Numran the assistant director of the Training Department explained that the programme

of the second batch of female volunteers is characterised with a longer practical training course in order to achieve maximum benefit.

He indicated that generally, the training period is considered to be short and that after the training school is established a longer course will be offered. He thanked all female volunteers for their effective participation.

The lecturer on air raids, Major Hamad Al Balood stated that female volunteers receive special training on this issue in order to develop their abilities in facing air raids. He pointed out that rescue, fire fighting and security teams will also be comprised of female volunteers.

Picture shows volunteers in the classroom.

## Kuwaitis called to train as vets

By Abdullah Al Shemmar

THE director of the Animal Health and Veterinary Medicine Department at the Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources Authority Dr Sultan Ahmad Sultan has called on Kuwaiti graduates to enrol at the College of Veterinary Medicine.

He told Seyassah that over 100 veterinary doctors were urgently required to meet the country's existing requirements for this speciality, and that there were 150 such doctors currently available in the country, whether operating in the central slaughterhouses or leading their private businesses.

He pointed out that four Kuwaiti vets now worked at the authority's animal health departments, and that the number of Kuwaitis operating in the veterinary paramedical health spheres formed 40 per cent of the

total number of staff operating in labs, radiology divisions, health guidance departments, and pharmaceutical fields.

The need to provide more vets in the country fell in line with national efforts to draw up a reliable food security strategy.

Sultan said. He added that animal health care formed part of that strategy.

He further said that the reason why youth avoided taking up veterinary medicine as a profession was due to social factors and social provocations, which often resulted in students being dissuaded from attempting to specialise in this field.

He called on this Ministry of Higher Education to reduce the grade-limit which students wishing to specialise in the field had to meet, stressing the importance of the role played by public media in dissipating the social frowning upon veterinary medicine and doctors.

He added that the protection of animals against diseases contributed significantly to the national efforts for boosting food security plans.

He urged Kuwaiti female students to join this field or related services, calling on all relevant government authorities to provide facilities, support and incentives to students meaning to study this vital medical discipline.

In a related development Dr Abdullah Al Fuhaid, dean of students' affairs at Kuwait University, has said that the university rector formed a special committee to study revising the credit-hour system code to sort out existing shortcomings which appeared over the past four years.

He told a local daily that the reason that no decision had yet been taken regarding the construction of the proposed university town was the fact that a con-

siderable amount of money had been spent on the renovation and remodelling of the existing university buildings.

The current slow progress in science and technology in the Arab world is due to unproductivity of the rich and due to the percentage of illiteracy being above normal levels. The latter is more poignant, Fuhaid said when one takes cognisance of the number of students dismissed from the University for their failure to meet standard educational levels which is the result of the low enrolment grade-limits.

He called for raising admission grade-scale for science faculties up to 70 per cent and that of the arts faculties to 75 per cent. The ongoing pros and cons about the credit-hour system were futile, as the university should adopt the system that can best suit the Kuwaiti educational policy and meet planned goals, Fuhaid said.

27/12/1989



## ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

WE owe to the Middle Ages the two worst inventions of humanity — gunpowder and romantic love — Andre Maurois, French writer (1885-1967).

## OPINION

## Decisions three years too late

THE government has committed itself to assist any bank that fails to recover loans granted to debtors. By debts, we mean here the debt programme estimated at KD1.5 billion.

Right at the outset, we emphasise that the latest decisions aimed at reactivating the country's economy, were well studied and emanated from a correct understanding of the situation.

Though we reiterate that the latest economic decisions have had a positive aspect, they have not covered all issues.

The decisions are highly important, positive and promising, but nevertheless, the fact remains that these decisions should have been issued three years ago in order to be more efficient and successful.

In the final analysis, it appears that these decisions will not be very effective in reactivating the stock exchange market. Since 1986, the government spent over KD1 billion on the real estate market — a fact that has provided the market with its present strength and stability. On the other hand, the stock exchange market stayed under ill-designed laws and regulations. Additionally, the market is also influenced by other financial aspects, such as the Kuwaiti economy witnessing a slow growth despite the financial strength of the government.

Interestingly, the slow growth of economy was coupled by a dramatic decision to increase the interest rates by 50 per cent. This action led to a state of shock which further slowed down the economic growth. Usually, when there is economic growth, interest rates are brought down to help bring back funds from abroad.

If we carefully study the implications of funds flowing out of the country into dollar accounts because of the differences in interest rates, we observe that it is the government who owns the funds and not individuals and it is the government who changes its money into dollars.

Consequently, the increase in interest rates proportionately had no great influence on private capital. Rather, it led to further slowing down of the economic growth and resulted in a price hike. Thus, the increase in interest rates contributed to further harming the stagnant situation at the stock market and also in adversely influencing the import-export or the general trade movement — including opening letters of credit for markets of the region which was being channelled through Kuwaiti banks.

Although the report arrived late, it has a very positive aspect, and if implemented in a comprehensive manner, it will compensate for the time lost. The report should not restrict its recommendations to improving the efficiency of the difficult loans settlement programme.

Confining the recommendations to improving the programme, will not bring any new developments — as the minister of finance has always been talking about. The most important task is to activate the stock market so as to reduce pressure on the big bad debts and minimise the government burden in this issue.

Ahmed Al Jarallah

Reforms come to East Europe  
Nationalism and racism increase

VIENNA, Austria, (AP): Sometimes overlooked in the new climate of freedom in Eastern Europe is an increase in nationalism and racism.

In the Soviet Union, East Germany, Hungary and Poland, there are signs of nationalism and anti-Semitism that suggest the four decades of communist rule simply suppressed traditional rivalries, rather than eradicating them.

Several quarrels have crossed national borders. Tensions have increased between Hungary and Romania in particular, and Romania has renewed a territorial dispute with the Soviet Union.

Since Mikhail Gorbachev allowed more openness and lifted iron controls on dissent within the Soviet Union, ethnic and racial hatred have resurfaced in Soviet Central Asia and in the Caucasus Republics. Ethnic violence there has killed more than 300 people.

Azerbaijan and Armenia are in conflict over the Nagorno-Karabakh region and the Baltic republics are gripped by growing nationalist sentiment. In the Baltics, such sentiment occasionally translates into at least indirect discrimination, such as laws meant to discourage the immigration of Russians and other "foreign" ethnic groups.

Writing in the current issue of Foreign Affairs, Zbigniew Brzezinski says that although communism "proclaimed itself to be a doctrine of internationalism, communism in fact intensified popular nationalist passions."

The former US National Security adviser said all these states have borders that are potentially subject to revisionist aspirations on the part of their neighbours.

## TODAY IN HISTORY

1515 — Pope Leo X surrenders Parma and Piacenza to France by treaty of Bologna.

1718 — Sweden's King Charles XII is killed at Frederikshall in expedition against Norway.

1878 — French-British dual control in Egypt is suspended.

1888 — Italy supports Menelik of Shoa in revolt against Ethiopia's Johannes IV.

1899 — British forces are repulsed at Magersfontein, Orange Free State.

1921 — British arrest members of Indian National Congress in India.

1936 — George VI becomes king of England following abdication of Edward VIII.

1941 — United States declares war against Germany and Italy in World War II.

1961 — Two US helicopter companies arrive in Saigon on aircraft carrier in first direct US military support for South Vietnam's battle against communist guerrillas.

1972 — US Apollo 17 astronauts land on Moon to begin extensive exploration of lunar surface.

1987 — US and five allies sign pact allowing Soviet observers to visit a dozen European missile facilities.

1988 — Palestinians stage impromptu general strike in occupied Gaza Strip to protest fatal shootings of two Arab youths.



Yasser Arafat (left) talks to Perez de Cuellar at the UN in Geneva. (Reuters wirephoto)

## American motives in doubt

## US on collision course with UN

UNITED NATIONS, (AP): The PLO's failure to win UN recognition as the government of Palestine is the latest in a series of confrontations that have put the United States on a collision course with the world body and generated suspicion about US motives.

Last Wednesday, Arab nations, pressured by the United States, abandoned their efforts to enhance the status of the Palestine Liberation Organization and recognize it as the provisional government of the still-non-existent state of Palestine.

The United States had threatened to cut off funding to the United Nations if the 159-nation world body agreed to enhance the PLO's status, giving it a standing equivalent to that of other non-voting observer states, like the Vatican, Switzerland, Morocco, San Marino and North and South Korea.

The United States, the major UN donor, was effectively threatening the organization with bankruptcy if it did not obey Washington and drop the PLO issue.

The PLO and some Arab diplomats, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the US action had enhanced the visibility of the PLO and, in the long run, had strengthened its cause.

But they and other diplomats did not expect the move would alter the way the United States does business in the world body.

The United States is the organization's largest donor and is one of five permanent members of the 5-member Security Council with veto power. The US government can kill any measure in the council, which can pass mandatory resolutions and is the most important UN body.

Although the United States often is outvoted in the 159-nation General Assembly, that body's resolutions are not binding.

The PLO already is invited to speak during all General Assembly debates concerning the Middle East and the Palestinian question. The Security Council routinely overrides US efforts to keep the PLO from participating in debates there.

Riyadh H. Mansour, deputy permanent observer of the PLO, said the US efforts at "financial blackmail" had harmed US credibility in the world body and in the Middle East peace process. But he said he did not expect any change in US behaviour as a result.

Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, assembly president Joseph Garba and the leaders of regional groups in the world body all have denounced Washington for linking its funding to the assembly's vote on a specific issue.

The United States is assessed \$216 million each year, one quarter of the UN budget. But it is \$459 million in general arrears and owes an additional \$191 million in contributions to peacekeeping operations.

The United States won the battle over the PLO issue because of its financial might. But in the long run it may have lost additional prestige and honour in the organization by throwing its weight around, without regard to the will of the majority, said some diplomats from Arab and developing world states.

Arab nations, although bowing to US pressure, criticized the United States for what some diplomats called bullying tactics and attempting to unfairly influence the issue with "financial terrorism."

Last week, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization defied a US threat to cut off funds and gave greater recognition to the PLO. It voted overwhelmingly to help it teach Palestinians how to grow food in the Israeli-occupied territories.

The State Department has not announced whether it will make good on previous threats to halt funding or possibly withdraw from FAO.

The PLO was given observer status to the United Nations in 1975 after a visit by President Yasser Arafat. The United Nations considers it the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people in the Middle East.

But the United States, an ally of Israel, consistently has sought to curtail PLO rights, guaranteed by the host country agreement between the United States and the United Nations.

The US-PLO dispute at the UN dates to late 1987 when the US Congress adopted an anti-terrorism law that called for closing the UN observer mission of the PLO, on grounds that it indirectly promoted terrorism. The UN General Assembly adopted a resolution rebuking the United States and saying the PLO has a right to function here.

The International Court of Justice in the Hague also said the US decision was a violation of the UN headquarters agreement.

A US district court judge also upheld the right of the PLO to operate a mission in the US.

In November 1988, the United States refused to grant visas to Arafat and other PLO leaders, although he had been in 1975. Again the General Assembly protested and it decided to move its session to Geneva in order to hear Arafat, delivering another blow to US prestige.

At that session in December, Arafat renounced terrorism and implicitly recognized Israel's right to exist. The United States then opened negotiations with the PLO in Tunis; the talks are not making major progress on substantive issues, but are continuing.

## Israeli Arabs support uprising

## Peaceful march through Nazareth

NAZARETH, Israel, (Reuters): A peaceful march through Nazareth by Israeli Arabs supporting the Palestinian uprising vividly demonstrated the ties that bind them to their brethren under occupation and the hopes and truths that divide them.

Police watched from rooftops but never intervened. The march by 7,000 people was legal and peaceful, with not a soldier or a tear-gas canister in sight.

Such a march in the occupied territories would be illegal.

As the demonstration marking the second anniversary of the revolt against Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip ended on Saturday afternoon, participants streamed away past open stores, stopping to eat at pastry or falafel shops.

In the occupied West Bank town of Jenin, 25 km (16 miles) to the south, the streets were silent, emptied by a general strike of Palestinian shop owners marking the anniversary and the stepped-up presence of Israeli troops.

The uprising may have reawakened Palestinian nationalism among Israeli Arabs — and strengthened Jewish suspicions of their fellow citizens — but the hardships of the struggle have fallen mainly on the 1.75 million Arabs in the occupied areas.

Inside those territories shops close everyday by noon on orders of underground Palestinian leaders, and full strike days are frequent.

Arab schools have been shut for much of the two years, standards of living have fallen and tens of thousands have suffered arrest, injury or death.

"There is no peace in the streets, there is no peace in your home, no peace anywhere," said the owner of a Jenin pharmacy, one of the few shops kept open during strikes.

But for all the sympathy Israeli Arabs feel for Palestinians in the occupied territories, they do not share their goals.

Arabs in the West Bank and Gaza want to replace Israeli occupation with an independent Palestinian state, those inside Israel are fighting for equal treatment as Israeli citizens.

"The Palestinians in the occupied areas don't

have anything to lose. But those here do," said Safwan Fahoumi, a local government official in Nazareth, Israel's largest Arab town.

The limits of their support for the uprising were shown during the Nazareth demonstration, when organisers such as Fahoumi removed banned Palestinian flags from marchers to avoid provoking the police.

The 650,000 Israeli Arabs, 16 per cent of the Jewish state's population, suffer subtle discrimination in areas ranging from expropriation of land to the quality of education.

Recent polls showing support growing among Jews for "transfer" — the euphemism for mass deportation of the Arab population to another country — frighten Israeli Arabs.

"It's not losing the house or the car, it's more than that," Fahoumi said of the pressures on Israeli Arabs. "We are afraid to be expelled, that is the main fear."

The Arabs remaining in Israel decided to stay when others fled after Israeli independence in 1948.

## Agony and emotions of intifada

## Arab film recreates Palestinians' struggle

MAALOUHA, Syria (Reuters): An Egyptian director using live bullets and stones has recreated on film the agony and emotions of the two-year Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied territories.

The three-hour epic "Al-Intifada" — "the uprising" — took 16 months to film. It records the struggle through the life of a Palestinian family in the occupied territories.

Egyptian producer and director Ahmed Al Khateeb told Reuters: "I wanted to turn my camera into a stone which will hit Israel from outside the occupied territories. I wanted to show the world facts on Israel's repressive actions against Arabs."

One part-time Syrian actor was killed when an armoured vehicle overturned in a battle scene. Sixteen people were injured in the accident and seven other performers were hurt during the filming.

The dead man was named a "martyr of the intifada" and his family said they planned no action against the director — a sentiment echoed by the families of other people injured during their filming.

One of those hurt was the female lead — the director's sister Majeda Al Khateeb — who suffered a strained back and was sent to hospital after she was dragged from her bed by actors dressed in Israeli

Army uniforms.

The film drew actors and actresses from throughout the Arab world and will have its premiere at the New York Film Festival in February.

"We chose New York because it is the stronghold of Zionism," Khateeb said in reference to the city's large pro-Israeli Jewish population.

An Army of 10,000 extras, including Palestine Liberation Organisation commandos, helped Khateeb recreate the chaos of the intifada.

"We did not import the stone-throwing children. Those who threw stones in the film were the sons of martyred Palestinians," Khateeb said, referring to the children of Arabs killed in successive wars with the Jewish state.

Apart from the 16 people injured in the vehicle accident, most of the others were hurt by stones and fists in chaotic scenes portraying fighting between Israeli troops and Arabs.

Experts from the Syrian Army and Palestinian commando groups helped Khateeb stage other clashes with live ammunition, the fighters using their first-hand knowledge to make the scenes more realistic.

The director picked the ancient Syrian town of

Maaloula for the film because of its mountains and physical resemblance to the Palestinian villages in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, scenes of frequent clashes between Israeli troops and stone-throwing Arab demonstrators.

Israeli troops or civilians have killed 590 Palestinians since the uprising began two years ago. Arabs have killed 44 Jews and also 150 Palestinians alleged to have helped the Jewish state during the same period.

The film is the first long Arab narrative about the Palestinian problem in the 40-year history of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The cream of the Arab cinema from Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, Lebanon, Kuwait and Syrian cancelled all commitments to contribute to the film designed to rally world support for the Palestinian cause.

The Arabic-speaking film will be dubbed into English, French, Dutch and Japanese.

Khateeb says the film tries to give an honest portrayal of what is happening in the territories.

Egyptian actress Amina Reza said it gave her an opportunity to help the uprising.

## Bail out of loans

MY wife and I bought this little savings and loan bank as a sideline in case the column ever went sour. It was mom-and-pop operation, and we never loaned more than \$380 million to one customer.

Most of it went to my brother-in-law Siegfried, who ran a dry-cleaning establishment on Wisconsin Avenue. Siegfried needed the money to construct a 100-acre housing community for Washington consultants, who now number about three million.

The Mom and Pop S&L was doing fine, particularly since we paid twice as much interest to our depositors as any savings institution inside the Beltway.

Then Siegfried fell on hard times. The development was constructed on radon, and the walls were full of lead. Siegfried built 24 lighted baseball diamonds only to discover that most Washington consultants preferred to play golf. To save money, Siegfried eliminated all the bathrooms. This slowed down, rentals, and pretty soon Siegfried had no cash flow to pay his loans.

I said to my wife, "Momma, I think we're in trouble. We can't keep paying 20 per cent interest if no one honours his debt."

"You can say that again, Poppa. It seems to me that the only businesslike thing to do is have Washington bail us out."

"Do you think they will?" I asked her.

"That's what the government is for. An S&L can't function unless there is someone there to pick up the pieces."

My wife was right as usual. So I went down to the Senate Office Building and told one of the receptionists, "I am here to get bailed out for a series of fifty loans I made to members of my family."

She told me, "I'm sure that the senator will be happy to see you. How many tables are you buying to his birthday party next week?"

"How many do you suggest?"

"If I was trying to keep my savings and loan institution afloat, I would purchase at least 10 at \$10,000 a table."

I whipped out my checkbook, and she smiled, "Would you like meat or fish?"

A few minutes later, the senator came out of his office, dragging a man by his collar. He threw him out the door and shouted, "Don't come back until you give to my Honesty in Government Political Action Committee."

He ushered me in. "I'd like to call in four of my senatorial colleagues to hear your story."

"Do I have them a check now or later?" I inquired.

"It's up to you. None of us is pushy."

The four other senators arrived and we sat around discussing my "bailout." When I told them that I had used a lot of money to fix up my horse farm and the banking commission was "looking into it," they became enraged. "How dare they get on your back for that? You are a constituent of ours."

I agreed, "I'm good constituent. I give to senators whether they ask me or not."

The five assured me that there was nothing to worry about. If any heads rolled, they would be those of the commissioners who had never given to a political campaign in their lives.

Tears came to my eyes and I whispered, "I don't know how to thank you."

One of the senators said, "Don't worry. My finance committee chairman will tell you." Los Angeles Times Syndicate

## Quote me

"But we know he has limits beyond which he will not go. It is our historic purpose to take him there or to go on without him. We reiterate our commitment to one person, one vote and one man, one woman, one child."

negotiate principle on which a future South Africa will be built. The regime ... has done its utmost to break us: whipping our people, declaring the states of emergency, assassinating and detaining our leaders. And it has failed. We gather here in greater numbers than ever before." — Walter Sisulu to anti-apartheid gathering.

"Being Latin (from Panama) I don't get the right respect. They (Americans) never gave me the opportunities. They kept me separated. They gave me bad press, but the public knows me." — Roberto Duran.

"I'm sad because this took place. But hopefully it will be the beginning of a constructive sequence of reforms which are really needed to ensure that this does not happen again." — Diosdado Macapagal, president of the Philippines from 1961-65 on the abortive uprising.

"It's a difficult time for the Libyans because conflicts at the root of the political mentality. They are working on their own perspective (restructuring) in international relations but it's as though they are trying to catch up with a moving train." An Eastern bloc diplomat with long experience of Libya on the East-West detente.

"Not too much longer... I don't think he can much longer. It's just the law of averages. Sooner or later he'll hurt himself a little or something will happen and he'll lose some confidence in the middle of a match." — John McEnroe on being asked whether Ivan Lendl can persist in his winning ways.

"Your diversity is our strength. The gigantic task of this conference is to confirm the crucial importance of unity, and to plan a programme of mass action ... that will challenge the apartheid state." — Walter Sisulu to an audience at an anti-apartheid conference.

"The militias will be disbanded at a future cabinet session and if any group tries to ignore the decision it will be suppressed through the appropriate means and this may require seeking the help of Syrian forces." — Lebanese President Elias Hrawi.

"If only that were possible (resignation) but when one is committed to the people and elected by the people... I shall serve Colombia until the last moment." — Colombian president to reporters at Catán military base in Bogota on returning from Japan.

"I like Gullit because he is a strong on-field presence. He's also very good in the air. Van Basten is a master at finding space. And I've always liked a soccer player with a natural penchant for scoring goals." — Former England soccer great Bobby Charlton.

"A message must go out from this conference that the struggle is not about to be abandoned in favour of negotiations. The aim of the struggle is not to negotiate — it is to eradicate apartheid and capitalism." — Jerry Moss, of black consciousness movement of Azania, to an anti-apartheid conference.



# Israel should 'accept' partition

CAIRO, Dec 10, (UPI) President Hosni Mubarak said yesterday that Israel should abide by the 1947 UN Security Council Resolution 181 calling for the partition of Palestine into separate Jewish and Palestinian states.

Mubarak made the remarks upon his return from Amman, where he held talks with Jordan's King Hussein on the Middle East, including the Israeli-occupied territories of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and the civil war in Lebanon.

Mubarak said Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's recent remark that Jordan is the substitute homeland for the Palestinians amounted to "interference in Jordan's internal affairs."

"Why this talk now?" Mubarak asked. "Does Shamir want to complicate the peace process? And why does Shamir make such remarks at this time in particular, while serious efforts are being exerted to push ahead the peace making process in the Middle East?"

"Shamir's remarks mean a return to the start of the Arab-Israeli conflict, and the Arab side might as well call for the return of all Arab territories including Israel, the West Bank and Gaza Strip," he said.

Mubarak acknowledged Jordan is basic to the peace-making process and noted that Palestine Liberation Organisation Chairman Yasser Arafat wants to establish a confederation between Jordan and a future Palestinian state.

"But he declared, UN Resolution 181, calling for establishing a Palestinian state and an Israeli one, must be abided by. And Israel must abide by this Security Council resolution."

Mubarak then warned against what he described as attempts to frustrate the current peace-making efforts in the region.

Asked if there were prospects of convening a direct Palestinian-Israeli dialogue in the near future, Mubarak said the US Secretary of State James Baker's point plan, Mubarak said. "We hope so, as we are exerting all this effort to make this come true."

Mubarak said he thought the reservations of both Israel and the PLO about the Baker plan were "necessary," since the process is not going to be an easy one.

"But the dialogue must first start," he said, with both sides sitting "together to begin the dialogue in order to understand each other's viewpoints and discuss them toward a solution."

Mubarak said a trilateral American-Israeli-Egyptian meeting at the foreign ministers level will occur soon to discuss how to pave the way for starting the dialogue.

Israel and Egypt have accepted the Baker's plan in principle.

# Jordan releases politicians

## Passports to be returned

AMMAN, Dec 10, (Reuters) Jordan's new Prime Minister Mudar Badran said today he hoped to lift martial law which has been in force since the 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

"I wish for the abolition of martial law, but it has many effects that need study," he told the newly-elected Parliament.

Badran suggested Parliament form a committee to study the feasibility of ending martial law regulations. The house took no immediate decision on his proposal.

He pledged to end restrictions on travel and employment, saying passports confiscated by the security forces were being returned to their owners.

Interior Minister Salem Mass'adeh told Reuters the number of confiscated passports to be returned was less than 500.

Previous governments often used to ban political opponents from travel or employment in government jobs.

Badran said all political prisoners had been released and promised to look into the cases of three people said by deputies to be in detention for political reasons.

Many of the 80 deputies campaigned for an end to martial law, travel restrictions and political detentions during the run-up to last month's general election, the first in 22 years.

King Hussein ordered the release of 48 political detainees, including 24 members of the Damascus-based Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, on Dec 2.

Jordan has applied martial law sparingly over the past 22 years, but has not limited its use to military or security matters. In the last 18 months, the government has invoked it to take control of newspapers, banks and moneychangers.

Badran's government, formed on Wednesday, is preparing to ask the 80-seat lower house for a vote of confidence.

# Israel using chem weapons: Arafat

## Two Palestinians killed in Gaza

CAIRO, Dec 10, (Agencies) Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, charged Israel with using chemical weapons to quell the 2-year-old Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied territories, the Middle East News Agency reported.

Arafat vented his charges in a speech carried by the Mena in the North Yemeni capital Sanaa to mark the second anniversary of the Palestinian uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"The intifada has faced chemical warfare for two years," Arafat said. "Two official reports, one American and another Belgian, have acknowledged that what Israel describes as tear-gas is in fact poisonous gas," the news agency reported.

"The Palestinian people will continue their struggle through the intifada's successive waves until the flags of Palestine are hoisted over holy Jerusalem," Arafat said, according to the Mena.

# Israeli oppression instigated uprising

ATLANTA, Dec 10, (Reuters) Ex-president Jimmy Carter, in a ceremony honouring Middle East human rights workers, said yesterday that Israeli "oppression" in occupied territories had instigated the two-year-old Arab uprising.

Carter also said that, despite some recent policy changes by President George Bush, the "Reagan legacy" of Washington backing for military violence around the world survives.

Carter, who mediated the Israel-Egypt peace accord and now promotes human rights and peace as a private citizen, made his remarks in an address at the Atlanta policy centre, where a \$100,000 prize was given jointly to the Palestinian Al Haq and Israeli B'tselem groups.

Israel's Foreign Ministry said its diplomats had been told to boycott the ceremony in which the four-year-old human rights award named for Carter and French-born Houston philanthropist Dominique de Mott was to be given to groups campaigning for Palestinian rights.

Carter, in his annual "state of human rights" address, said activists watching abuses world-wide have only recently begun to focus public attention on the "humiliation and suffering in the West Bank and Gaza Strip on people who for more than 22 years have never known a day of freedom."

"This oppression has instigated the violence of the intifada," he said, adding that "damage to human souls has been reciprocal. The peace, reputation and conscience of Israeli citizens have suffered terribly, while 40 of them have lost their lives. Such are the ravages of war."

But the former president, who made human rights a major facet of policy during his presidency from 1977-81, complained that world leaders are largely indifferent to the cost of war on innocent populations and "scattered outcries for world peace (are) simply ignored or considered signs of weakness or idealistic political aberrations."

"It is not easy to face facts. Everyone knows that the Israelis and the Palestine Liberation Organisation — yes, the PLO — must work together to resolve the conflict so that Israel's security can be preserved while the Palestinians finally enjoy self-determination and human rights," he said.

"Despite some commendable reverses in policy during recent months, the Reagan legacy survives," Carter asserted. "We have poured billions of dollars into El Salvador, much of the support going to military leaders who openly condone and probably direct the notorious death squads."

Arafat criticised the US position regarding Israel's human rights violations in the occupied territories, and charged President Bush with turning a blind eye to them.

"It is my right to ask the American people the following question," Arafat said: "What right do you have in paying taxes (to Israel to enable it) to kill our sons in Gaza and (the West Bank town of) Nabulus?"

"But the United States is also in a dilemma because it still does have the courage to take a balance or impartial position... it is trying in vain to arrest the current of history or divert it from its course," he said.

Arafat said "only three Arab countries are extending financial aid to support the intifada."

He said both the American and Israeli media have turned President Hosni Mubarak's ten questions — designed to guarantee elections in the Israeli-occupied territories — into ten points to avoid furnishing answers.

"The pupils of former US Secretary of State (Henry) Kissinger in the American administration have adopted the position of the (Israeli) Likud," Arafat said.

Turning to the question of naming Palestinian delegation to the proposed Israeli-Palestinian dialogue, in line with US Secretary of State James Baker's five-point formula, Arafat said:

"How come they ask me not to name the Palestinian delegation. Could it possibly be the invisible man," he said.

On the trilateral American-Israeli-Egyptian meeting expected next month in Washington at the foreign ministers level to help pave the way for the proposed Palestinian-Israeli dialogue, Arafat said:

"The meeting would focus on the Palestinian issue, and the PLO would be at the heart of the meeting despite the fact it would be absent from it."

In the occupied territories, meanwhile, Israeli civilians killed two Palestinian teenagers, Arab reports said.

An Israeli civilian shot and killed a 17-year-old Palestinian after stone-throwers attacked an Israeli fuel truck in Gaza city, according to army and Arab reports.

Arab reports identified the slain youth as Naim Said Nofal.

The incident triggered several protests in which soldiers clashed with Palestinians, wounding 12, Arab reports said.

In the West Bank town of Hebron, Arab reports said Jewish settlers shot and killed a 15-year-old Palestinian. Hospital officials said Barak Ibrahim Fakouri was killed with two gunshots to the head.



# End occupation

Chanting anti-Zionist slogans, some 7,000 Israeli Arabs march through Nazareth town on the second anniversary of Palestinian uprising, to demand an end to Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. (Reuters wirephoto)

# Afghan rebels down copters

ISLAMABAD, Dec 10, (AP) Muslim insurgents yesterday claimed to have downed five Afghan government aircraft and killed scores of Kabul's troops during weekend fighting in northern Afghanistan.

Mulla, a joint rebel information organ, said rebel fighters shot down three helicopter gunships last week after aircraft strafed rebel positions outside Maimana, the capital of Afghanistan's north-western Faryab province. Mulla reported that one was involved in the downing of the helicopters.

Abdul Rahim, Mulla director, said at least 40 communist troops were either killed or captured in the fighting, including Brig. Gen. Alam, commander of the 53rd government regiment based in Faryab.

Rahim said two fighter bombers were shot down outside Baghlan city, on the strategic 200-mile (320-km) Salang highway, the Afghan capital's supply line to the Soviet Union.

Rahim claimed rebels downed the Soviet-supplied ground-attack aircraft after capturing Hasantala, a town adjacent to Baghlan city, 114 miles (190 kms) north of Kabul.

In 11 years of fighting to topple Kabul's communist rulers, US-backed rebels have not captured any major cities. They control much of the countryside, however.

The rebels and their backers, most notably the United States, predicted the imminent collapse of the Kabul government last February when Moscow withdrew its last combat troops after nine years of direct intervention.

Within weeks, the ruling communists abandoned most of its border posts and remote garrisons. Since then, insurgents and government troops have waged a seesaw battle for security posts ringing Afghanistan's major cities.

Rahim said the heavy fighting in northern Afghanistan belies Marxist President Najib's claims that rebel field commanders have struck deals with the ruling communists. He also said it debunks Najib's assertion that fighting is restricted to border areas.

"Najib is claiming that fighting is just going on in the south and along the border, around Jalalabad, because of the interference from Pakistan," said Rahim. "But the fighting in the north proves that it's not true and that the mujahideen have not reached any agreement with the government."

# Gulf talks to resume in New York

# Iran, Iraq send ministers

NICOSIA, Dec 10, (Reuters) Iran and Iraq have sent their foreign ministers to New York to resume post-war diplomatic contacts that have so far produced only shadow-boxing.

UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, the chief mediator, managed to get Iran's Ali Akbar Velayati and Iraq's Tariq Aziz together in the same room in April, but not to persuade them to speak directly to each other.

He will try again this week, hoping that a shuttle mission last month by his special envoy, Jan Eliasson, may have laid the basis for a break in the stalemate.

But Baghdad and Tehran seem still bitterly at odds over basic issues including ownership of the Shatt Al Arab, the river that forms the southern section of their border.

The Gulf war was halted by a UN-brokered ceasefire in Aug. 1988 after nearly eight years of fighting in which, according to western estimates, more than a million soldiers and civilians died.

Peace talks promptly stalled. Tehran wants Iraqi troops withdrawn from an estimated 2,600 square km (1,000 square miles) of border territory they still hold.

Baghdad insists the first move should be to clear war wreckage from the Shatt Al Arab which links its moribund port of Basra to the Gulf. It has torn up a 1975 pact under which the two states shared the river, demanding a new treaty to give it full sovereignty over its only outlet to the sea.

Stalemate has prevented a post-war exchange of prisoners, estimated to number at least 40,000 Iraqis held by Iran and up to 70,000 Iraqis captured by Iran.

In an attempt to break the impasse, Iran told the UN in November that it would agree to a prisoner exchange if it was carried out simultaneously with an Iraqi withdrawal to the pre-war border. Iraq called the offer blackmail.

# Islamic law students in Tunis on hunger strike

TUNIS, Dec 10, (Reuters) Eighty-one Islamic law students were on hunger strike in Tunis for the sixth straight day yesterday in protest at plans to move them to new premises.

Zaitouna University officials said they wanted to move the 900 students at the Sharia (Islamic law) Institute to another part of Tunis to ease overcrowding in classrooms.

But student activist Noman Hamza, a regional secretary-general of the Tunisian General Union of Students, said the plan was aimed at dispersing the students at the university, which includes the sharia institute.

The students on hunger strike, including 39 women wearing Islamic headscarves, have been drinking only sugared water since Monday, Hamza said. Fifteen students abandoned the strike earlier this week on medical advice.

"The Zaitouna has always been at the forefront of the student struggle and rejection of the government's plans for education," he told Reuters.

One of the hunger strikers said the authorities "were conspiring against the Zaitouna and Tunisia's Muslim identity."

The influential Islamic movement has been at odds with Education Minister Mohamed Sharfi since he made the curriculum less Islamic.

Hamza said riot police fired tear gas on Friday to break up a solidarity march which set out from a nearby teacher training college.

# Libya denies: Libya has denied claims by Chadian President Housseini Habre that Libya is interfering in Chadian internal affairs which entails retaining French troops in Chad.

An official source said that statements made by Habre seek to "hide the real situation inside Chad and lead world public opinion to believe that no new opposition group exists in Chad besides the former opposition."

The official affirmed that Libya is holding firm to its stance toward the Libyan-Chadian agreement signed in Algeria in April this year. (KUNA)

Crew rescued: The captain and crew of a Cypriot-flagged, phosphate-laden boat which sank in the Red Sea near Ethiopia Dec 7, arrived today on board a ship that rescued them, a police official said.

The captain of the Sterling Grace cargo boat told Egyptian police that his boat sank in the Red Sea near Ethiopia after it struck an unidentified object.

Greek captain Giorgos Kokorakis told police that when the boat started sinking, he and his 20 Greek and Filipino crewmen sent distress signals and then threw themselves into the water. He said a Japanese-owned ship, the Pelender, heard their distress signal and rescued them several hours after their boat had sunk. (AP)

Unity discussions: Chairman of the supreme people's council in Democratic Republic of Yemen Haider Abu Bakr Al Attas has announced that the two Yemen's consultative bodies will hold special sessions in the coming few months to discuss the unity constitution.

Attas told Al-Ihtidadi daily published here today in the United Arab Emirates that consultations will be made with brothers in the north part of Yemen on preparatory procedures for those sessions so as to coincide the meetings in both parts to enable the Yemeni people to follow up the historic discussions.

He elaborated that the invitation to the Arab League to contribute in the efforts to re-unite the two Yemens during the referendum, emanates from Yemen's keenness that the efforts should start on basis of Arab solidarity. (KUNA)



Tension in Beirut  
Two Christian Lebanese Forces militiamen stick posters of their leaders in East Beirut to mark the Day of Resistance. Tension grew in East Beirut between the Lebanese Forces and army troops of defiant General Michel Aoun and a military confrontation appeared to be imminent. (Reuters wirephoto)

# Secret contacts seek agreed list of Palestinians for talks

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Dec 10, (AP) Secret contacts involving Israel, the United States and Egypt are underway to choose Palestinian negotiators for preliminary peace talks, an Israeli newspaper and Palestinian activists said today.

The independent Yediot Ahronot daily said the parties hope to draw up an agreed list of Palestinian negotiators before next month's tripartite meeting in Washington when US Secretary of State James Baker is to host foreign ministers Moïse Arens of Israel and Esmat Abdel Meguid of Egypt.

The behind-the-scenes diplomacy was aimed at circumventing Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's refusal to have direct or indirect dealings with the PLO.

Shamir's spokesman Avi Pazner denied secret contacts were underway, saying, "it's not true; it's only speculation. There are no secret contacts. We haven't reached that stage yet."

But two Israeli officials who spoke on condition of anonymity said discussion of Palestinian negotiators may come up in talks expected later this month in Washington to prepare the foreign ministers' meeting proposed by Baker.

Assad Saftawi of Gaza City, a leading Palestinian activist and a longtime close associate of PLO chief Yasser Arafat, confirmed the report to the Associated Press.

"I know there are secret negotiations between parties to the conflict," Saftawi added, noting that he was scheduled to travel to Cairo later this week to discuss the subject.

Saftawi also confirmed that he was one of some 20 names being considered as potential negotiators. Ten will be selected for the negotiating team when the ministers meet in Washington, Yediot Ahronot said.

Another leading Palestinian, Sari Nusseibeh of East Jerusalem, said he had heard contacts were underway. "I don't think there is a complete and final list of names. I think there is a serious and continuing discussion," he said in a telephone interview.

The Washington meeting has been called by Baker in advance of proposed Israeli-Palestinian talks in Cairo to arrange for elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The elections would choose Palestinian negotiators for talks on autonomy for the occupied lands' 1.7 million Palestinians.

Other Palestinian names listed by the newspaper as potential Palestinian negotiators were: Faisal Hussein of East Jerusalem, Azarney Fayez Abu Rahme of Gaza City, Radwan Abu Ayyash, Chairman of the Arab Journalists' Union from the West Bank town of Ramallah, Hanna Siniore, a newspaper editor from Jerusalem, said Kenna, a Nabulus businessman, and Jamil Tarifi, a lawyer from Ramallah.

According to the report, discussion of Palestinian negotiators began in Cairo last summer during a meeting between Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak.

Since then, Israel has reportedly listed names it would agree to and also indicated a readiness to compromise on two key Palestinian demands it has formerly rejected.

One demand involves the inclusion of Palestinians from outside the occupied territories in the negotiating team.

Shamir has refused, claiming it would allow the PLO into the talks through the back door and indirectly recognise the right of exiled Palestinians to return.

Shamir has refused, claiming it would allow the PLO into the talks through the back door and indirectly recognise the right of exiled Palestinians to return.



## EVENTS



## Steps Ballet School

On Saturday, the young girls of Steps Ballet School performed in front of a large audience. The show was of a different nature this year as the dancers presented the different levels of dance offered by the school. Pictures show the girls performing.

## WHAT'S ON

## ARTS

**Seminar**  
THERE will be a seminar at the DAA on "Arabic & European Art in the Light of Zodiacal Symbolism" December 10, 1989 - January 10, 1990. Sunday and Tuesday 11.00 - 12.30 am. Anyone wishing to register for this seminar may do so at the DAA during museum hours.

## SOCIAL

**Konkani Drama**  
THE New Goans Overseas Association are pleased to announce Menino De Bandar's "Sonsarant Astana Diat" a Konkani play which will be held in the Indian Arts Circle (Funaitees) on the 16th of February 1990. The cast all from Goa includes M. Boyer, C. D'Silva, Betty Naz, Junior Rod, Rosario Dias. Plans open in early January.

**Musical evening with Adnan Butt**  
ADNAN BUTT, a talented and versatile radio, TV and stage singer from Pakistan will be performing at the El Dira Ramada Al Salam Hotel on Friday, Dec 15, at 6.00 pm. Those interested in attending the event should contact the following phone numbers for details after 4.30 pm: 3919720, 3610088, 4743955, 4760502, 5643851 and 5712731.

**IAC Children's Competition**  
THE dates of finals of the Children's Competition will take place at IAC Funaitees on 13th, 14th, 15th, 27th and 28th December '89 and 18th January '90 respectively. For more details contact Indian Schools.

**KOSA meeting**  
KOSA Annual General Meeting - 17 December 7.30 pm Shaab Marina. All members should attend to elect the 1990 committee. For further details please call the KOSA Secretary Declan Mannion on 2452880.

**Music Night**  
MUSIC Night at "The Lonesome Traveller." A musical evening in a cafe atmosphere featuring performers from the Kuwait Folk Group performing British traditional music, folk, pop and country songs. The evening is being produced by ACT and will provide you with a unique night out. It is being held December 17th at 8.00 pm at the Holiday Inn. For more details, call 5620332 from 5.00 to 7.00 pm.

**Victory Day flag hoisting**  
A flag-hoisting ceremony will be held on Dec 16, Saturday at 9.00 am to observe the Victory Day of Bangladesh. The ceremony will be held at the Bangladesh Embassy premises: House No. 3, Block 1, Street 14, Khalidiya. All Bangladeshis are requested to attend.

## Star Nite

DEC 21: Thursday Christmas dinner social at Ramada Al-Salam Le Miraj Ballroom from 9 pm with Stepping Stones music. Variety entertainment and prizes galore for lucky 5 5 5 promotion and X'mas Hamper draws with sumptuous buffet at mid-night. Children's programme commences at 6 to 8.30 pm with Fancy Dress Competition.

For reservations please contact Vincent Tel. 2413706, James 5331940 also at Shop No. 34 A.M. Ex-New Super Market Kuwait.

**Kuwait Cultural Centre**  
NEW courses at the cultural centre: yoga, healing classes, two sessions in the evenings on Tuesdays and Thursdays; jujitsu (martial arts) Saturday and Mondays; pm; Chinese cooking classes, Saturdays, 9-11 am. For details call 5624393.

**NRI General Body Meeting**  
NRI Investors Forum holding annual G.B. meeting at Indian Embassy on December 15 at 11.00 am. Investment speakers specially invited from India. Also presentation of NRI of the Year trophy. Followed by complimentary lunch for members.

**Saez Aur Aawaz**  
FEB 2: Saez Aur Aawaz, one of the leading Indian musical groups of Kuwait present their fourth musical programme entitled Bhule Bisle Geet. The show includes Hindi film songs at the Indian Arts Circle, Funaitees on February 2, 1990. Passes will be available shortly.

**Kuwait Little Theatre**  
KUWAIT Little Theatre, Ahmadi, proudly present their traditional pantomime extravaganza - Siabed the Sailor. Tickets are now on sale for the following performances: Evening performances on 6th and 13th Dec at 7 pm, Matinee performances on 7th, 8th, 14th and 15th Dec at 2 and 5 pm. Ring 3919759 now to avoid disappointment.

**X'mas DEC 15: Flying Arrows**  
Sporting Centre once again invites their members and guests to their annual X'mas tree function, to be held at the Carlton Tower Hotel from 11.30am onwards. Assumptious buffet, gifts galore, exciting games and live music by the "Neighbourhood" awaits one and all. Added attraction, Leo the Magician is to perform at 12.00pm sharp.

## Kuwait Goans

DEC 15: Annual children's X'mas tree function will be held at the Messiah Beach Hotel on Friday, Dec 15, '89 from 9.30 am onwards. Lots of prizes and surprises awaits for one and all. Top Ranks in attendance. Crib competition will be judged by Santa Claus specially flown from London.

To avoid disappointment call for your early bookings on 2413348.

**Kalpak's drama competition**  
Kerala Arts and Literature Promoting Association of Kuwait (Kalpak) is organising a Malayalam drama competition on 8th and 9th of February 1990.

One act plays of 40 minutes duration will only be considered for the competition. Prizes will be awarded for best drama, best script (only for amateur creations from Kuwait) best direction. Stage setting, best actor (Prem Nazir award) best actress & best child artist, from the selected entries.

Interested parties may send their applications along with a copy of the script to Varghese Paradayil, P.O. Box 47, 13001 Safat Kuwait.

For more details pls contact Varghese 5635481, Kurien 5658072 or Balakrishnan 4316737.

**X'mas tree '89**  
CHRISTMAS is for children, and what better way than to celebrate it with the New Goans Overseas Association at the Ramada Al Salam Hotel (the new Al-Mirage Ballroom) on the 15th of December 1989. Highlights include 'carol singing competition' (4 local schools participating) games for children, novelty dance and music by the Stepping Stones. Santa Claus will be distributing gifts to all the kids. For reservations contact Anthony on tel: 5621968 (after 6.00 pm) or Julio.

**Vishal Musical Group**  
VISHAL Musical Group is conducting their 2nd musical programme on Friday, January 5 at 6.00 pm at Funaitees Indian Arts Circle. The programme contains the most popular old and new hit songs from Hindi films. Also classical and fast dances by young talented artists. Centres for distribution of passes will be announced shortly.

**People's Trust Club**  
DEC 29: People's Trust Club welcomes you to a day of your life at Ramada Al Salam (Marriott) Hotel, New Ballroom from 10.30 am onwards. Nimble feet, hungry palate, perfect blend of music and style. A get-together with buffet. Featuring Stepping Stones, Top Ranks, Perfect Strangers. There will be novelties and surprises galore.

## Southerners

DEC 22: Southerners invite their members and guests to celebrate X'mas family get-together at the Ramada Al Salam Hotel (the new Al-Mirage Ballroom) to the excellent music by Top Ranks and Mr Leo's Magic Show. Santa Claus will be distributing gifts to all kids and other attractive gifts to prize winners. Fun and entertainment for entire family starting from 10am on December 22, 1989. For passes contact Ligory on 2425705 or 2412444.

## Punjabi Adabi

THE monthly meeting of Punjabi Adabi Sangat will be held on Dec 14, Thursday at 8.00 pm at the residence of Jagdish Singh Arora in Abbasiya. Kishor Nath Kidar and Gurbaksh Singh Dogra will present their short story and poem respectively for criticism. Before recitation of poetry by the participating poets an introduction of renowned Punjabi poet Piar Singh Sehrai's new book will be presented by Jasbir Singh Dhiwan.

**Pongal celebrations**  
BHARATHI Kalai Mandram is organising Pongal Celebrations on 29th December in the Indian Arts Circle auditorium with a variety of entertainments for children and adults from 5 to 8.30 pm. All are welcome. For details and entry passes please contact 3716976, 3718935, 5631230 or 5627718.

**Ladies International League**  
LIL newcomers coffee: Interested in joining a new international ladies group in Kuwait? You are cordially invited to an informal coffee afternoon at the Sheraton Hotel, Green Room - Mezzanine, from 3-6 pm, Monday December 18, 1989. For further information please phone Ann at 5316905.

## British council

**Yogi's first Christmas**  
Wednesday, 13 December at 6.00 pm; Thursday, 14 December at 10.30 am, 99 min.

Yogi and his little pal, Boo-Hoo, are usually hibernating during the Christmas season at Jellystone Lodge. But this year, they are awakened when Yogi's special friends gather together to help him celebrate his first Christmas. This is a happy event that you will remember for years to come.

**Study in Britain**  
ARE you interested in studying AUTOMOBILE or AERONAUTICAL ENGINEERING in Britain?

If you are then come and visit the British Council Education Office on 16 & 17 December, for information and advice about the many different courses that are available.

## KTV 1

## Morning period

9.30 The Opening and Holy Quran  
9.40 Sabah Al Kher news and variety  
9.50 Cartoon Serial  
10.05 Magazine D'Actualite (repetition)  
10.20 Hawar Zaver: Local serial (part 3)  
11.30 Sabah Al Kher news  
11.35 United Arab Emirates popular arts: Variety programme  
12.20 Sabah Al Kher news  
12.30 News summary  
12.35 Holy Quran and Close-down

## EVENING PERIOD

4.00 The Opening and Holy Quran  
4.15 The World Today via Satellite (repetition)  
4.45 Breen: Cartoon serial  
5.15 Manna Anisa and Children: Local children's programme  
6.00 Night chemists, airlines and official advertisements  
6.15 Al Islam Hadhara: Religious programme (part 30)  
7.15 Holy Quran and Science: Religious programme, prepared and presented by Dr Ahmed Shawqi  
8.00 Omsiyat Al Ethneen: Local programme, prepared and presented by Mohammed Al Barjes  
8.30 Good Evening and local news  
9.00 News in Arabic  
9.45 Al Manzil Al Khalfi: Arabic serial (part 1), starring Boust, Omar Al Hareeri, Tahya Karyouka, and Dalal Abdul Aziz  
10.35 Masra Al Motanabi: Historical serial (part 10), starring Abdullah Ghaith, Sameeha

Ayoob, Ameena Reza and Abdul Rahman  
11.45 News summary  
11.50 The World Today via Satellite  
12.15 Holy Quran and Close Down

## KTV 2

6.00 Opening announcement & Holy Quran  
6.10 The Little Rascals: A cartoon series for children  
6.30 Wildlife in Australia: Roving Report: A weekly round-up of local, Arab and international news  
7.00  
7.30 Charles in Charge: "May The Best Man Lose", "May and Jaimy" convince Charles to enter a competition on general information. The loser will be hit by a creamy cake on his face!  
8.00 News in English  
8.30 The Scientific Progress: A weekly local programme on scientific topics and achievements  
9.00 Sonny Spoon "Ratman Can": Two young men hire illegal deals and transactions from their deceased father... The prosecutor general requests Sonny to find evidences against one of them.  
10.00 Bustin Loose  
10.30 The Dark Angle Eps. A sensuous and beautiful 17-year-old Maud Ruthyn lives with her widowed father in his magnificent Derbyshire mansion. Though immensely wealthy, her father "Austin" lives a reclusive life and has little time to care for his daughter...  
11.30 News in Brief  
11.45 Magazine D'Actualite

Al Andalus  
Arabic film  
Sahalyah  
Hall booked  
Al Hamra  
Arabic film

Drive-in  
Arabic film  
Al Firdous  
Scalps

Fahabehel Open  
Closed for the winter  
Fahabehel  
Extreme Prejudice  
Al Jahra  
Insect

Granada  
The Rescue  
Salaikhbat  
Too Hot to Trot

Jeeb  
Eka Tuka Aasha  
Ahmadi Drive-in  
Arabic film

## NIGHT CHEMIST

Kuwait City  
Al Alamiya Pharmacy  
Fahd Al Salem Street  
Loulia Pharmacy  
Ahmed Al Jaber Street  
Al Sahalya and Al Rasmithiya  
Al Fida Pharmacy  
Al Khansa Street

Hawalli and Al Nagra  
Al Naser Pharmacy  
Tunis Street  
Al Fahabehel and Al Ahmadi  
Pasteur Pharmacy  
Al Fahabehel

Jeeb Al Shayookh  
Al Ayoub Pharmacy  
Al Souk Complex  
Al Jahra  
Al Abraj Pharmacy  
Dabal Al Khuzai Street

## PRAYERS

Fajr 5.08 am  
Zohr 11.41 am  
Asr 2.31 pm  
Maghreb 4.50 pm  
Isha 6.12 pm

## Romeo, for ladies

Supply and Building celebrate the launching of a fabulous fragrance that caught the country in which it has already been launched by a outstanding success.

The fragrance for ladies is the now famous Romeo di Romeo Gigli, the newly renowned Italian fashion designer. As the fragrance is the exclusive creation of Romeo Gigli, the company prepared for the celebration strictly following his wishes as to its planning and execution.

This is why the company's celebration was all standing — no chairs, no tables. Gigli wished to lend to this gathering an aura of comradeship and closeness, away from the classic and rigid atmosphere that normally surrounds such evenings.

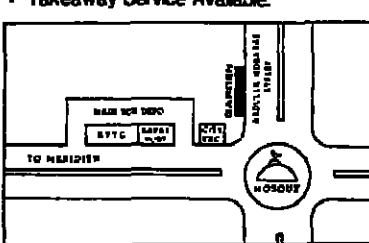
And this is why the guests found themselves in a totally oriental setting, wherever they looked with dreaming oriental music. The very atmosphere will be recreated in every European city where Romeo is launched, and it was not restricted to Kuwait or to the rest of the Arab countries. All of this in order to bring out the real oriental identity of the fragrance, Romeo di Romeo Gigli.



شركة مطعم وستين  
حديقة الزهور  
Garden Restaurant  
OF FLOWERS & COFFEE SHOP CO.

GRAND OPENING TODAY  
AT MORQAB- KUWAIT.

**OUR SPECIALITIES:**  
• Bangladeshi, Pakistani, Indian, and all other Oriental Dishes prepared by Original Cooks.  
• Famous Kachcha Biryani, Shami Kabab, Chicken Tikka, Tandoori & Mughlai Cuisine.  
• Famous Dhaka Sweets.  
• Takeaway Service Available.



CUSTOMER SATISFACTION IS OUR MOTTO.

\* "مطعم حديقة الزهور" هو مطعم جديد في منطقة مورقاب، الكويت. يقدم مجموعة واسعة من المأكولات الشرقية، بما في ذلك الكاچا بيرياني، شامي كباب، تيككا تشicken، والمطبخ المغولي. كما نقدم الحلويات الشهيرة من دكا. نرحب بكم جميعاً في حفل افتتاحنا الكبير. \*  
\* "Garden Restaurant" is a new restaurant in Morqab, Kuwait. It offers a wide variety of oriental dishes, including Kachcha Biryani, Shami Kabab, Chicken Tikka, and Mughlai Cuisine. We also serve famous sweets from Dhaka. We welcome you all to our grand opening ceremony. \*

We are open from 6 am - till midnight

## Getting into the Christmas spirit

THE Filipino Choral group with Gilda G. Navarro as conductor has been rigorously practicing for their forthcoming Christmas Carol Concert which will be held on Friday, the 15th of December 1989 at 5.30 pm at the Le Meridien Hotel's Al Jahra Ballroom.

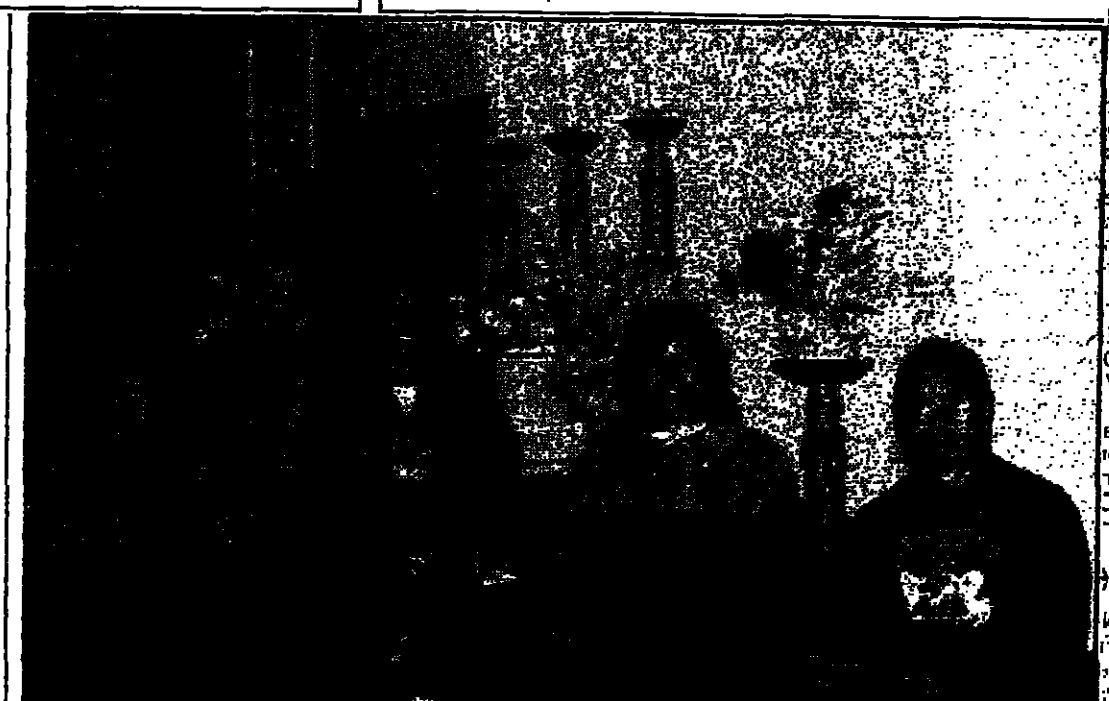
With main aim being to reach out to other members of the population of Kuwait, Navarro and her group have selected a repertoire of popular Yule season songs for everyone who will be spending the Christmas season in Kuwait.

The Filipino choral group is composed of Filipino men and women working in various hospitals in Kuwait and other important work sites. Piano

accompaniment is provided by Arnie Salud who has been with the group for some years now. The project is done in co-ordination with FLASSIK for the benefit of its welfare recipients.

A disco follows the concert. For particulars, kindly contact: Grace N. Covarrubias at Tel. No. 4890118, Gilda Navarro, Tel. 4888000 ext. 143, or 4881890, Chary Nepomuceno, Tel. 5624509; Marilyn Inductivo Tel. 3940600 ext. 4521 or 2534; Cely Cayaba, Tel. 3940600 ext. 4118, RC Ruiz, Tel. 4819920 or 4849400 ext. 248.

Picture shows Hilda Navarro with the choir's musicians.





# BUSINESS & FINANCE

Kuwait can provide institutional links to exporters

## Malaysia gives incentives to investors

**AHMAD SARJI**, secretary-general at Malaysia's Ministry of Trade and Industry has said the current trading environment in Kuwait is favourable in the context of expanding Malaysia-Kuwait bilateral trade. Market opportunities are changing with new products and new kinds of demands. The recent exchange rate movements are causing a change in consumer preference. Opening up opportunities for new products and suppliers.

He said the positive developments in the region have given impetus to the role of Kuwait in the transit trade. Kuwaiti trading companies are starting to re-evaluate their business relationships. So Malaysia exporters must also act accordingly.

Sarji, who is leading a 25-member trade delegation to Kuwait, was speaking to businessmen and leading investors that almost everything is readily available in Kuwait. Kuwaitis do much purchasing in their holiday destinations where the presentation of products is much more effective. Malaysian exporters should re-evaluate their market-

ing and merchandising strategy for the Kuwait market.

According to the National Bank of Kuwait in its October 1989 overview, the development of the Gulf Co-operation Council is enabling suppliers to look at the whole GCC as a single market. Malaysia has principally gained from the role of Dubai and Abu Dhabi as the chosen bases for distribution. Kuwait's hinterland provides a potential market for Malaysian suppliers.

Kuwait can provide the institutional links to Malaysian exporters. The Chamber of Commerce and the finance institutions could provide the necessary advice to the choice of the Kuwaiti partners, trade regulation and practices.

The National Bank of Kuwait has also stated that "Business is a pleasure for most Arabs and is conducted between friends. Establishing friendship is vital in order to conclude successful deals. Hence, the visiting businessmen must be prepared to be sociable yet, when necessary, professional and well prepared.... Concluding a deal is

only the start of a business relationship, never the end."

Malaysian businessmen should strive to develop such relationship with their Kuwaiti counterparts.

Malaysian embassy in Kuwait organized a dinner in honour of the visiting Malaysian trade delegation yesterday at Kuwait International Hotel.

The Malaysian government welcomes foreign investment in the manufacturing sector. In keeping with the objective of ensuring increased Malaysian participation in manufacturing activities, it is government policy to encourage projects to be undertaken on a joint-venture basis.

Foreign investors are permitted to hold whatever level of equity of up to 100 per cent, if the company exports 80 per cent or more of its production, irrespective of whether or not the company's products compete with products presently being manufactured locally for the domestic market.

A company that has been approved under the new equity

guidelines will not be required to restructure its equity at any time, even after the year 1990, notwithstanding the fact that the company may have undergone an expansion or diversification, provided that the company continues to comply with the original conditions of approval and retains the original features of the project.

Malaysia's readiness to conclude investment guarantee agreements is a testimony of the government's desire to increase the confidence of foreign investors in Malaysia.

Malaysia has concluded investment guarantee agreements with 16 countries namely the United States of America, the Federal Republic of Germany, Canada, the Republic of France, Switzerland, Sweden and Belgium/Luxembourg, United Kingdom, Sri Lanka, Romania, Norway, Austria, Finland, the Netherlands, Italy and Kuwait.

An investment guarantee agreement will provide the foreign investor with the following: Protection against nationalisation and expropriation;

prompt and adequate compensation in the event of nationalisation or expropriation; free transfer of profits or capital and other fees; settlement of investment disputes under the Convention on Settlement of Investment Disputes, of which Malaysia has been a member since 1965. Malaysia grants foreign investments both national treatment and most-favoured nation treatment.

In line with the national policy of promoting and protecting foreign investment, the Malaysian government in 1966 ratified the provisions of the Convention on the Settlement of Investment Disputes established under the auspices of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD).

Facilities for international conciliation or arbitration are established by the convention through the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes which is located at the principal office of the IBRD in Washington.

The principal incentives for the manufacturing, agricultural

and tourism sectors are contained in the Promotion of Investments Act, 1986 and the Income Tax Act, 1967. These incentives are designed to grant relief from taxes in various forms. Companies given pioneer status incentive are exempted from the payment of these taxes. In the case of the other incentives, the benefits are in the form of allowances given.

Corporate income tax rate is reduced to 35 per cent from 40 per cent with effect from year of assessment 1989.

Development tax is to be abolished gradually starting with a reduction of one per cent from year of assessment 1990.

Accelerated Depreciation Allowance (ADA) will no longer be available for capital expenditure incurred after Dec 31, 1988. The expenditure will only qualify for the normal capital allowances rates.

A company granted the investment allowance may be given an allowance of up to 100 per cent in respect of qualifying capital expenditure incurred within five years from the date of approval of the project.

In line with the government's objective to promote the growth of exports of manufactured goods, Malaysia's central bank, Bank Negara, has implemented an Export Credit Refinancing (ECR) scheme which provides Malaysian exporters with short-term credit at preferential rates of interest to enable them to compete more effectively in international markets. The main features of the facilities are as follows:

- The credit is extended by commercial banks to exporters of goods manufactured in Malaysia. The maximum period of refinancing, for all eligible products for fresh shipment is four months, and for postponement is six months.
- Eligibility of goods for refinancing under the ECR scheme is determined through a "negative list" concept, whereby products not listed in the negative list will be eligible for refinancing under the pre-shipment and post-shipment refinancing schemes provided they satisfy the 20 per cent value-added and 30 per cent local content criteria.

Opec's new pact aims to shave output

## Price will steadily go up, says Nazer

**LONDON, Dec 10, (Reuters):** Opec's latest pact to curb output and support oil prices seemed flawed, but a cold snap in Europe and North America suddenly has the petroleum market looking again.

The icy weather after a mild autumn is keeping prices well above Opec's \$18 a barrel target. The big unknown is how far an expected fall in Soviet exports may push the market.

"I think the price will steadily go up after the market ascertains the durability of this agreement," said Saudi Oil Minister Hisham Nazer. He was commenting on Opec's new output pact which was agreed in Vienna in late November and takes effect on Jan 1.

The pact aims to shave output for the seasonal market weak spot between the northern hemisphere winter and the usual summer surge in petrol demand.

The possible Gulf output cuts theoretically add up to at least 850,000 barrels daily of Opec output, estimated by the International Energy Agency at around 23.3 million in November.

The IEA on Dec 5 put Saudi output at about 5.6 million bpd, implying a cut in January of about 200,000 to its new quota of



Hisham Nazer

5.4 million.

The Saudis meanwhile have trimmed 10 cents a barrel off their prices to the United States, industry sources say.

Industry executives in the Gulf meanwhile doubt if the UAE can avoid damage to its oil reservoirs if it keeps output at around 2.3 million bpd — the IEA estimate for it in November.

They think a cut of about 300,000 is likely, despite buyers' preference for its light crudes over the above the sour, sulphurous types offered by Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

Japanese oil company officials said on Dec 6 they expect the Abu Dhabi National Oil Co (Adnoc) to cut spot sales.

But even if Opec gets daily output down to the implied level around 22.5 million barrels — or, says Nazer, 22 million — it may still be production too much, say

several analysts.

The analysts noted particularly that December excess supply will take time to reach markets. Steve Turner with London stockbrokers Smith New Court said the Vienna pact "is a very weak Opec agreement that will result in oversupply...."

If that turns out to be so, Opec leaders reply, talks on March 15 of their market monitoring committee "will produce new cuts. Turner agreed, but said "there will be no easy options."

Opec, however, believes various imponderables may help it out such as cold weather on the demand side and, so far as supply is concerned, Soviet and North Sea disruptions.

"Variations in winter weather could raise or lower the demand for Opec crude by half a million bpd," said Mehdi Varzi, analyst with a London finance house.

On the North Sea, Opec will have been cheered by news on Dec 5 that Shell Expro, and Exxon/Shell venture, is delaying restart of output on its Brent Charlie and Cormorant Alpha platforms to between mid-February and the end of March.

The two can pump 140,000 barrels daily. Brent Charlie was shut for maintenance in May and Cormorant Alpha was hit by a gas blast on April 18.

## UAE call for GCC, EEC trade accord

**ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates, Dec 10, (AP):** The United Arab Emirates today called upon the European Economic Community and the Gulf Co-operation Council to conclude a trade agreement enabling freedom of trade exchange between the two blocs.

"An EEC-GCC trade agreement should be reached with the aim of establishing a free-trade zone and for expanding and facilitating entrance of exports from one group to the other," said Sheikh Hamad Bin Zayed, under-secretary of the UAE Foreign Ministry.

Sheikh Hamdan, son of the UAE ruler, was speaking at a seminar on "Europe 1992" held in Abu Dhabi with two French officials as the main speakers.

In the inaugural speech, Sheikh Hamdan stressed the importance of developing co-operation between the GCC and EEC, saying that what may happen in one group would positively or negatively affect the other.

The two blocs last year signed a framework for economic co-operation through which they hoped to streamline co-operation to take into consideration GCC demands.

Existing ideas expressed along the Gulf, Hamdan said there was concern about the impact of the planned 1992 single European market. He did not elaborate but there is wariness of protectionist trade and financial policies when the single market evolves.

Already, these countries have been hit by EEC tariffs on petrochemical imports from the Gulf.

But Harve Jounjean from EEC headquarters, stressed that the unified European market was not directed against any external party, and that the EEC put into consideration the interests of other countries.

Charles Caporale head of the EEC Arab and Middle East countries affairs, advised the GCC states to form a single Gulf customs union and abolish all customs duties as a means of confronting the single European market.

Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman and the UAE formed the GCC in 1981 to push economic co-operation between member states emulating the EEC pattern.

The GCC countries are major oil suppliers of West Europe, and a primary market for European imports.

Company to promote projects

## AIIC nets \$1.2m in profit

**VIENNA, Dec 10, (Kuna):** The Baghdad-based Arab Industrial Investment Company (AIIC) netted \$1.2 million in profit in 1988, according to its annual report.

The company was set up in November 1978 with an authorised capital of \$481.5 million and a subscribed capital of \$269.6 million. Its shares are held by nine Arab governments, namely those of Iraq, Kuwait, Jordan, Libya, North Yemen, Morocco, Qatar, Tunisia and Saudi Arabia.

However, its projects are not necessarily financed by them, but offered for investment to private sector companies and individuals in member states.

The main objective of the AIIC is to consolidate the Arab industrial base through joint ventures in order to achieve Arab economic integration. The report distributed here today, said.

The company has been keen to promote advanced technology and strategic projects to enhance Arab industrial development, the report notes, adding that in 1988 it was active in setting up industrial engineering industries, including washing machine project in Iraq which is due for completion by the middle of next year.

Company-sponsored projects onstream include the Hand Tools Company, Societe de Fonderies et de Mecanique, and Companie Tunisienne de Resorts a Lames, all in Tunisia; the Arab Machine Tools Manufacturing Company, Morocco; the Arab Engineered Systems and Control Enterprise and the Gulf Aluminium Rolling Mills; both in Bahrain and the Arabian Axles Manufacturing Company in Saudi Arabia.

Projects under implementation are the Arab Engineering Industries, Jordan, and the washing machine project in Iraq, while others are under promotion spread over such diverse areas as electric lighting and wiring accessories, telephone exchanges, irrigation equipment, switchgears, electric motors and seamless steel pipes.

The company may also consider projects in ductile iron pipes, anti-friction bearings, high-speed diesel engines and circuit breakers for medium voltage.

The company takes an active part in seminars and conferences dealing with Arab industrial development and co-ordinates its activities with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (Escwa), the Arab Industrial Development Organisation and other joint Arab companies connected with engineering industries.

## Largest ever shipment

**OVER** three thousand cubic metres of Medium Density Fibreboard (MDF) was recently unloaded at Dubai's Jebel Ali Port, marking the largest ever shipment of its kind to arrive in the Middle East.

The boards were consigned to Tafinsa Internacional, the first of the world's major timber producers to establish a distribution facility in the Gulf.

Tafinsa, based in Spain, is today acknowledged to be the world's biggest manufacturer of MDF and currently produces more than 500,000 cubic metres of medium density fibreboards per annum.

In addition, the company also manufactures over 2 million cubic metres of other wooden boards, including chipboard, hardboard, blockboard and melamine-faced board, at its 10 fully-automated plants in Spain, Portugal and Ireland.

Robert Seropian, Managing Director of Tafinsa Internacional's Middle East Branch, said that the company hopes to annually import about 30,000 tonnes of wooden boards of redistribution throughout the AGCC states, so shipments like the first may possibly become a monthly feature.

From its warehouse in Jebel Ali, Tafinsa will supply its entire range of products to furniture manufacturers, construction companies, carpentry workshops and timber dealers throughout the Gulf, Iran and Iraq, in any quantities that may be required. Such companies in the past were often plagued by lengthy lead times and shipping delays, but Tafinsa hopes to eliminate those problems by maintaining a significantly large inventory of stock.

"Since its introduction in Europe five years ago, MDF has rapidly and effectively replaced plywood, chipboard and even solid wood in a diverse range of applications.

## SHIPPING MOVEMENTS

SHIPS DISCHARGING AT SHUWAIKH PORT AS ON 10/12/89			
B.No.	Ship Name	Agent	Tel. No.
06	Shams	ISA	2441880
SHIPS EXPECTED AT SHUWAIKH PORT			
B.No.	Ship Name	Agent	Tel. No.
10/12	Himeishima Maru	Algh Barwil	4842988
11/12	Kual Trapper	A. Bahar	2459991
11/12	West Phala	ISA	2441880
SHIPS DISCHARGING AT SHUWAIBA PORT			
B.No.	Ship Name	Agent	Tel. No.
02	Pan Riser	GhAQ	4347815
06	Norman Prince	Algh Barwil	4842988
16	Al Monakh	UASC	4843150
19	Pecunia	Algh Barwil	4842988
VSL AT ANCHORAGE			
B.No.	Ship Name	Agent	Tel. No.
02	Neptunian	RSMS	2423642
06	Northeastern Breeze	RSMS	2423642
SHIPS EXPECTED AT SHUWAIBA PORT			
B.No.	Ship Name	Agent	Tel. No.
09/12	Westphalia	Al Kamal	2425437
09/12	Stellar Venus	Algh Barwil	4842988
09/12	Cassano	Algh Barwil	4745533
09/12	Evermore Ascendant	ISA	2441880
11/12	Dumond Gang	Algh Barwil	4842988
15/12	Khalid Ibn Al Walid	UASC	4843150
16/12	Bl. Charlotte	RSMS	2423642
19/12	Hanne Meite	Algh Barwil	4842988
22/12	Probus Gopal	Algh Barwil	4842988
24/12	Amu	Algh Barwil	4842988
Compiled by: Alghaiman Barwil Shipping Co. WLL, Tel: 4842988/4843288 ext. 3828/3646 Fax No: 4845712, TLX 22804 BARWIL KU TLX.			

Compiled by: Algh Barwil Shipping Co. WLL. Tel: 4842988/4843150 ext. 3022/3046 Fax No: 4845712, TLX 22084 BARWIL RT TLX.

## Wall Street blamed for interest rates confusion

**WASHINGTON, Dec 10, (Reuters):** Wall Street has only itself to blame for the millions of dollars lost recently in the confusion over the course of interest rates, a top Federal Reserve Board official said on Thursday.

He said he was amazed that the markets misinterpreted the US central bank's credit policy so badly.

The official told reporters that even an unsophisticated Fed-watcher, let alone Wall Street's highly paid army of experts, should have realised that the central bank's operations in the money markets in the week of November 20-24 did not signal an easier monetary policy.

Investors snapped up treasury bonds and bills on Wednesday, November 22 in the belief the Fed was pushing interest rates down, only to be left counting their losses a few days later once it became clear that the Fed was doing no such thing.

"Some people bet the wrong way. They were overly anxious in trying to be ahead of the market and speculate," the official, who asked not to be identified, told a press lunch organised by the Bretton Woods Committee, a group that supports the International Monetary Fund and World Bank.

Several elaborate theories have been concocted to try to explain one of the most bizarre episodes in the money markets in recent years.

One holds that Fed officials in Washington did in fact ease credit but then had to reverse course because of protests from inflation hawks who control the Fed's regional banks.

Another theory has it that the Fed was trying to trap a mole who had leaked confirmation of previous easing moves.

But the senior Fed official said there was a simpler explanation — Wall Street fouled up. "There wasn't any strong reason for the markets to be excessively confused," he said.

The episode has reopened a debate over whether the Fed should promptly announce changes in its monetary policy, but the official said the bank preferred to retain discretion over its actions in case economic conditions changed suddenly.

As for the outlook for interest rates, the official said a further reduction might be needed at some point but for the moment the Fed was waiting to see how housing and other sectors of the economy respond to the credit easing that has already occurred.

## Turkey and Moscow sign trade pact

**ANKARA, Turkey, Dec 10, (AP):** Turkey and the Soviet Union signed a pact on Wednesday calling for a 50-per cent increase in trade in the next two years.

The sides agreed to increase their trade volume to a total of \$3 billion for the years 1990 and 1991.

The trade is expected to reach \$1 billion by the end of this year, up from \$700 million in 1988.

Turkey pledged to provide \$100 million credit from its Eximbank to the Soviet Union for the purchase of consumer goods next year, according to the protocol.

In January, Turkey will start releasing a \$350 million investment credit to the Soviet Union that was previously agreed upon, the protocol said.

The protocol was signed by Turkish Finance Minister Ekrem Pakdemirli and Soviet Deputy Prime Minister Lev Voronin.

The sides also agreed to undertake a wide range of construction projects in each other's countries.

## French trade team in Tehran

**NIKOSIA, Dec 10, (Reuters):** A French trade delegation, said to be the biggest to visit Iran since the Islamic revolution, reached diplomatic relations last year arrived in Tehran today.

The Iranian news agency Irna said the delegation, representing 32 French companies, met the head of Iran's Chamber of Commerce, Alinaghi Khamoushi.

Irna, received in Cyprus, quoted Khamoushi as saying Iran wanted to expand its relations with France.

The agency reported the head of the French delegation Christian de Malle as saying that French industrialists were keen to co-operate on economic projects in Iran.

## UAE to supply oil, gas well beyond next century

### Strategy to maintain stable prices

**ABU DHABI, Dec 10, (Opecna):** Despite its small size, the United Arab Emirates is one of the world's major oil producers, with vast oil and gas reserves that can supply the world market well beyond the next century.

Beneath the land surface and offshore, are more than 200 billion barrels of high-quality crudes, some 120 billion barrels of which, it is believed, can be produced using currently known methods of oil recovery. The country's gas reserves are estimated at over 185 trillion cu ft.

Opec annual statistical bulletin showed UAE's proven oil and natural gas reserves standing for 1988 at 98.1 billion barrels and 5.66-trillion standard cu metres respectively.

The country's oil history goes back to the 1930s, when the London-based Iraq Petroleum Company (IPC), grouping BP, Shell, Total, Exxon, Mobil, and the Gulfbenkian family, first displayed an interest in the southern Gulf region. Abu Dhabi's first concession agreement was signed with an IPC subsidiary in January 1939. The same shareholders still own a 40 per cent interest in the Abu Dhabi

Company for Onshore Oil Operations (Adco), one of the world's major oil producing companies.

Oil exploration began after the Second World War, with the first commercial oilfield discovered in 1958. Abu Dhabi's offshore oil exports began in 1962 and onshore exports a year later.

Dubai, the country's second largest oil producer, discovered oil in the 1960s, followed by Sharjah and, a few years ago, Ras Al Khaimah. The search continues elsewhere in the country.

The UAE government has long stressed the need to work towards an equitable balance between supply and demand which should take into consideration the interests of both oil exporters and consumers.

Stemming from its keenness to promote a dialogue between oil exporters and importers, the government policy stresses that responsibility for a stable world oil market depends on both producers and consumers. It is neither correct nor just to suggest that only Opec producers are responsible for controlling prices, UAE President Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan believes.

## American computer industry faces more tough times ahead

**NEW YORK, Dec 10, (Reuters):** The US computer industry, which grew by leaps and bounds during America's boom times, has painfully realised it must tighten its belt to squeeze out some profits in a slumping market.

International Business Machines Corp. on Tuesday announced plans to cut 10,000 US jobs, through attrition and voluntary severance packages, in its efforts to boost earnings and remain competitive.

IBM's job cutbacks are believed to be the largest of some 30,000 staff cuts in the computer industry this year.

It follows a slew of other cutbacks announced this year.

Wang Laboratories Inc.: 2,000 jobs  
National Semiconductor Corp.: 2,000  
Honeywell Inc.: 4,000  
Unisys Corp.: 8,000

Prime Computer Corp.: 2,500  
Digital Equipment Corp. and Cray Research Inc. also announced plans to trim their work forces.

The past few years for most high technology concerns have been a far cry from the industry's golden era in the 1970s when it grew by leaps and bounds.

Analysts cited slowing high technology growth, heated competition, and a sluggish economy as the culprits for the industry's current woes.

Some industry experts now agree that other computer concerns will likely scrutinise their operations for ways to raise earnings. Many computer concerns posted weaker earnings or losses in the last quarter.

They said the problems are likely to lead to continued changes in the US electronics

industry, whose employment rose to 2.64 million people in 1988 from 1.97 million in 1980.

In that period, the US electronics industry's world-wide revenues rose to \$400 billion from \$190 billion, according to the American Electronics Association.

IBM chairman John Akers said the industry had grown for 25 years at about 15 per cent, three to four times growth in the overall economy. He predicted seven per cent to 10 per cent world-wide growth in the longer term.

As the industry matures, computers are becoming more powerful and less costly at a rapid clip.

"The computer industry grew up in a somewhat utopian environment at the peak of America's boom times," said Dan Lacey, a consultant at Lacey and Co. "It is

now learning that economics applies to everybody including computer companies."

IBM, which has been hurt by product delays and rising competition, said it would trim its US work force to 206,000 by the end of 1990.

It said the cuts, its third major effort to reduce staff in four years, will be made by restricting hiring and raising attrition at nearly every IBM location in the United States.

The company said it would take a \$2.3 billion pre-tax charge against fourth-quarter earnings. The charge, one of the biggest in history, will cover one-time costs associated with the job reductions and other cost-cutting measures. The charge will also cut IBM's after-tax fourth-quarter earnings by \$2.25 a share.



## 'Crisis point' Defence industry to undergo reshaping

ST LOUIS, Dec 10, (AP): The big thaw in US-Soviet relations means new vulnerability for the American defence industry, long used to fat budgets and hefty Defence Department orders.

As Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's perestroika policies have reduced military tensions, American popular support for big defence budgets has fallen. The entire role of what is commonly called the military-industrial complex is becoming as unstable as the crumbling Berlin Wall.

Last month, US Defence Secretary Dick Cheney made headlines world-wide with talk of drastic budget cuts at the Defence Department, perhaps \$180 billion through 1994.

"I think everyone would agree that this was a fun industry to be in, maybe in the 1950s, but now it's really a tough place to be," said Thomas McNaughton, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, a Washington-based research group.

As world politics are redefined in the 1990s, there is no doubt the US defence industry will undergo a drastic reshaping. What's unclear is how severe the consolidation will be and who will survive.

"We're reaching a crisis point right now," said William van Cleave, director of the Centre for Defence and Strategic Studies at southwest Missouri State University.

"Because of the great uncertainty, companies are unable to do proper planning and invest in research and development. It's just barely, barely viable now to come up with new projects."

Many investors already have concluded defence companies will suffer because of the East-West stand-down. They're funneling money into other businesses.

As a group, defence company stocks are at a 15-year low in relative price-earnings ratios compared to the broader market. Stock prices for the largest defence contractors, such as St. Louis-based McDonnell Douglas and fellow giants General Dynamics, Lockheed and Raytheon, have hit 52-week lows.

Although the industry has expected for some time that demand for new weapons and equipment would drop, the past few months have highlighted the shaky future for makers of jet fighters, tanks and even combat boots.

"It's like knowing that someone is going to turn the shower on. It's not until the cold water finally hits you that you start thinking about how unpleasant it is," said Paul Nisbet, an Aerospace stock analyst at Prudential-Bache Securities Inc. in New York.

But he thinks stock prices have fallen purely on the shift of psychology.

"I think the prices are ridiculously low. Now's the time to buy," he said.

The defence industry is accustomed to ups and downs, enjoying booms in war and suffering lean times in peace. But that pattern changed because of former President Ronald Reagan's unprecedented peacetime military buildup this decade.

For instance, at General Dynamics' plane-building plant in Fort Worth, Texas, employment went from 28,000 in 1968, at the height of the Vietnam war, to 7,100 in 1972. Today, employment at the plant, which builds F-16 fighters for the Air Force, is at 31,500.

With the threat of war diminishing everyday, the defence industry knows the fat years under Reagan and Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger are gone, but the readjustment is bound to be painful.

The biggest sufferers likely will be regions that depend heavily on jobs created by sophisticated multibillion-dollar defence procurement orders, such as parts of the states of Missouri, Massachusetts, California and New York.

At McDonnell Douglas, officials said they are taking a "wait-and-see" attitude. But Cassell Williams, president of the company's largest union, the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, finds that response alarming.

"I want to go to Washington. I'll talk to whoever I have to because this could become a major catastrophe before you know it," he said. "We hear this stuff on TV, read it in the newspaper every day and we think about our jobs."

One possible alternative for the defence industry is to diversify into other products. But the history of weapons makers manufacturing peacetime goods has been dismal.

# Weak jobs data give stock market a partial lift

NEW YORK, Dec 10, (UPI): The nation's jobless rate climbed 0.1 percentage point to 5.4 per cent in November, giving the stock market a partial lift because it renewed investors' confidence that interest rates will head lower.

The government report released Friday said 210,000 new jobs were added to the nation's nonfarm payrolls in November, considerably higher than what was generally anticipated by most economists.

The 5.4 per cent unemployment rate was the highest since January when it also was 5.4 per cent and was identical to the rate in November 1988.

Meanwhile, the nation's economy appeared to be chugging along with slight growth in late October and November despite growing weakness

in the manufacturing sector, the Federal Reserve Board reported Wednesday.

Most of the Fed's 12 regional banks described economic activity as "stable to modestly expanding" in their areas, according to the Central Bank's periodic beige book overview of regional economies across the country.

A drag on the economy, however, is sales of domestically built cars, which slumped 11.5 per cent in November from year-ago levels.

The industry's performance during the latest month was capped by reports that US car and light truck sales during the final 10 days of November slid 9.3 per cent from year-ago levels.

Sales of domestically built cars alone during all of November declined 14.2 per cent from year-ago levels. Light

truck sales, which accounted for more than 39 per cent of all vehicle sales, declined 7 per cent.

Sales of imported cars were estimated at 209,000 units during November, down 12.2 per cent from the year before. Imported cars accounted for 30.6 per cent of the total US car market, vs 30 per cent in November 1988.

Weak defence bookings helped drive the overall level of new orders to the nation's factories down 0.2 per cent during October, the Commerce Department reported.

The \$233.9 billion in October orders, adjusted for seasonal factors, followed a revised 1.0 per cent decline in orders in September and underscored what generally has been a weakening manufacturing sector.

Housing became more affordable in October as mortgage rates stabilized and median home prices declined, the national association of realtors said.

The association's housing affordability index, a total to track the purchasing power of home buyers, measured 106.1 in October, up from 103.5 the month before.

That means a family earning the national median income of \$33,345 in October had 106.1 per cent of the income needed to qualify for a conventional mortgage with a 20 per cent downpayment to purchase a home valued at \$92,100, the national median home price.

M. Denny Wall, the nation's top thrift regulator, resigned Monday "to remove the distractions" his agency has

faced after weeks of public criticism over his handling of a failed California savings and loan.

Wall, director of the office of thrift supervision, had been under fire for his handling of the failed Lincoln Savings and Loan Association of Irvine, California. Resolution of the Lincoln failure was expected to cost taxpayers more than \$2.5 billion.

In addition to his handling of Lincoln, Wall had faced criticism for his initially low estimates to Congress of the cost of the thrift crisis, which now is expected to cost the public more than \$160 billion.

In corporate news, Chevron Corp. reacted to Thursday's disclosure that Pennzoil Co. had acquired an 8.8 per cent stake in Chevron with a series of

steps it said were designed to benefit Chevron and its shareholders.

Chevron said it filed a lawsuit against Pennzoil, accusing Pennzoil of violating federal disclosure laws.

Three corporations announced job cutbacks during the week.

International Business Machines Corp., feeling the effects of rigorous competition, said it was eliminating 10,000 jobs in the United States and taking a \$2.3 billion one-time charge in the last quarter of 1989 in order to save \$1 billion a year beginning in 1990.

Information company McGraw-Hill Inc. said it will lay off 1,000 workers and take a \$220 million pre-tax charge to fourth-quarter earnings as part of a restructuring designed to shore up performance.

## Debate begins on Rafsanjani's plan

# 5-year plan to boost foreign investment

NICOSIA, Cyprus, Dec 10, (AP): Iran's parliament today began debating President Hashemi Rafsanjani's controversial five-year development plan which is aimed at loosening the state's stranglehold on the economy and encouraging foreign investment.

The Islamic Republic News Agency, monitored in Nicosia, said the plan will push non-oil exports to widen Iran's economic base, attract private investment and revive idle industries.

Inflation, officially pegged at 28 per cent but believed to be considerably higher, is one of the major problems the five-year programme must tackle.

Rafsanjani said last week that

some \$50 billion, or eight times the country's annual budget, are locked up in unfinished projects which must be revived.

Rafsanjani, leader of Iran's so-called pragmatists, is believed to be seeking improved relations with the West to end Iran's isolation following the June 3 death of the revolutionary leader, Ayatollah Khomeini.

He is opposed by hardline radicals, who argue that his policies undermine the revolution's ideological purity.

Rafsanjani, 55, has defended his plan, a revised version of one drawn up by the previous government of Hussein Musavi, saying that non-oil exports must be pushed to lessen the country's

dependence on oil.

Exports of oil currently account for more than 90 per cent of foreign exchange earnings.

Private investment, privatisation of inefficient state industries, and limited foreign investment and technology must be encouraged, Rafsanjani stressed.

In a meeting last week with his 22-man cabinet and a number of parliamentary deputies, Rafsanjani defended his programme as "realistic, not ambitious."

But the 270-member parliament, which has to approve the plan, is dominated by radicals.

In line with Rafsanjani's new monetary policies, Iran's Central

Bank announced today a new "service" exchange rate of 845 rials to the dollar, Irna reported.

Iranian tourists will be able to purchase up to \$300 per year at this new rate. Patients certified by the Medical Council to seek treatment abroad will also be entitled to use the new rate, Irna said.

Iranian students who do not receive money from home at a special lower rate can receive up to \$150 a month at the new rate, Irna said.

In October, the Central Bank introduced a "competitive" rate of about 945 rials to the dollar at which some industries could buy foreign exchange for imports.

## Manila tries to reassure investors

MANILA, Dec 10, (Reuters): Manila government and business leaders are scrambling to convince investors the Philippines is still a good place to put their money despite a bloody coup attempt that closed the country's financial district.

The president of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce, Aurelio Periquet, said this weekend the chamber would send missions soon to Hong Kong, South Korea, Singapore and Taiwan to reassure nervous investors.

He said the chamber also planned to organise a series of local conferences for foreign investors on business opportunities in the country.

Rebel soldiers who tried to overthrow President Corason Aquino launched the mutiny on December 1, attacking the presidential palace and military camps in Manila.

They seized the centre of the Makati financial district on December 2, forcing banks, stores and both of the city's stock exchanges to close. They gave up their fight on December 7, with a defiant march, fully armed, back to their barracks.

Most stores reopened on Friday and Saturday and many shoppers returned to the financial district.

The Makati and Manila Stock Exchanges are scheduled to reopen tomorrow, after being closed for six trading days, and brokers are expecting a sharp decline in share prices.

The Central Bank has promised to lend money to brokers to cushion the impact of anticipated selling pressure.

"The Central Bank is prepared to provide stockbrokers, through commercial banks, whatever liquidity may be required as the market resumes operations," Bank Governor Jose Fernandez said in a statement on Saturday.

The government's regular weekly treasury bill offering held last Friday was oversubscribed, indicating investors would be shifting away from shares and other more speculative investments.

The Senate and House of Representatives are due to rush forward with new legislation this week giving Aquino wider powers under a state of emergency she declared on December 6.

Those powers include authorisation to impose price controls, take control of private utility and other businesses, set prices, suspend labour laws and take over distribution of food and other commodities.

The government announced some price controls at the height of the coup attempt last week.

Today's newspapers listed price ceilings for rice, canned milk, sugar, chicken, pork, flour and liquefied petroleum gas. The Department of Trade and Industry urged people to inform the government on any price violations.

## Walesa asks Poles to support austerity

WARSAW, Dec 10, (Reuters): Solidarity leader Lech Walesa appealed to Poles yesterday to swallow the bitter pill of austerity as the International Monetary Fund's chief arrived to discuss the government's economic reform plan.

Walesa, flanked by Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki and Solidarity's parliamentary leader Bronislaw Geremek, called a news conference to support the government's belt-tightening policies.

"We must here to show our unity and to say that we all will try to get through the difficult time of economic recovery," Walesa said.

Geremek added: "It is the economy on which both the fate of the Polish democracy and the future of the Polish state depend."

The government on Friday unveiled details of its economic recovery plan which included a seven-fold increase in the price of coal.

The Solidarity-led government, which ended 40 years of communist rule in September, warned that its crash programme to transform Poland's command economy along Western lines could lead to a 20 per cent drop in living standards and a 12 per cent fall in industrial output.

It has pledged to cut spending, tighten tax discipline and limit pay increases to try to cut an inflation rate of almost 450 per cent.

## New branch opened

The Kuwait Bahrain International Exchange Co. has opened its latest branch at Khalait in an attempt to provide expeditious service to the residents of Khalait and Farwaniya areas. The KBIE has special arrangement with the Habib Bank Ltd. of Pakistan.

## Oil platform damaged by shipping accident

Initial damage totals \$30m

CAIRO, Dec 10, (Reuters): Production has stopped at an oil platform seriously damaged when a ship struck it on Friday in the Gulf of Suez, an operating company official said today.

The official, from the Gulf of Suez Petroleum Company (Gupco), could not say when production of 6,000 barrels a day would resume. He said little oil was spilled as valves to the well closed automatically on impact and no one was hurt.

Egypt's Oil Minister Abdel Hadi Kandeel, quoted by the semi-official Al-Ahram newspaper, estimated initial damage at \$30 million, mainly in lost production.

Kandeel said production at other platforms would be increased to compensate and shipping would not be affected.

The Gupco official said the ship, the Panay Samaguita, had hit the platform while sailing up the Gulf of Suez towards the Suez Canal. He said both weather and visibility had been fine.

Local newspapers said the Philippine bulk carrier was on its way from Singapore to France.

They said the Filipino captain, who has been detained by Egyptian authorities along with the ship, had complained he did not see the platform because of poor visibility.

The platform was operated by Gupco on behalf of Amoco Egypt Oil Company. Gupco is a joint venture between Amoco and the state-owned Egyptian General Petroleum Corporation.

Egypt has cracked down recently to stop accidents in the busy waterway, dotted with dozens of oil platforms to the north.

Oil spills have destroyed many beaches in recent years and Egypt says it is determined to protect its tourist beaches and coral reefs on the Red Sea.

Last month it sparked a diplomatic row with Israel after detaining an Israeli captain accused of spilling oil into the Red Sea.

## Libya lives beyond means after Khaddafi ease-up to avoid crisis

TRIPOLI, Dec 10, (Reuters): An economic relaxation in Libya, aimed at defusing political discontent after years of austerity, has left the country living beyond its means and facing a delicate balancing act for at least two years, economists say.

Official figures show the trade balance swung into deficit last year for the first time since at least 1973 and foreign reserves have tumbled.

The balance on services also took a turn for the worse as hundreds of thousands of Libyans took advantage of easier rules on foreign travel. More than a million, about a quarter of the population, visited Tunisia alone in 1988.

Diplomats say Colonel Muammar Khaddafi had to let more goods into the country and more Libyans out because dissatisfaction with economic conditions was about to develop into a political crisis.

Austerity was imposed in the early 1980s with a drop in the world price of oil, Libya's main source of foreign exchange.

With oil prices still relatively weak, Libya will have to keep dipping into foreign reserves over the next two years to meet the demand for imports and travel abroad, economists said.

According to figures made available to Reuters, Libya ran up a trade deficit in 1988 of \$173 million after a surplus in 1987 of \$63 million.

Imports in 1988 cost \$220 million more than in 1987.

The deficit on the services account grew by \$700 million while revenue from oil exports fell \$20 million.

The result was a current account deficit of \$2.25 billion, compared with 1.02 billion in 1987. Both were financed entirely by foreign exchange reserves accumulated when oil prices were high.

Foreign economists estimate that a slight rise in oil prices and a higher Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) sales quota in the first half of 1990 — 1.233 million barrels per day (bpd) against 1.149 bpd currently — will give Tripoli some respite.

Next year's current account deficit should fall to about \$1.2 billion.

But even that would wipe out almost a third of the country's net foreign reserves of \$3.83 billion at the end of 1988, the economists say.

Officials have said the drain on reserves is likely to be only \$500 million a year. But

the estimate came before September celebrations of the 20th anniversary of Khaddafi's 1969 revolution, which cost hundreds of millions of dollars.

Foreign economists have estimated that net foreign reserves could dwindle to just \$200 million by 1991.

"The challenge currently facing the authorities is to achieve a more open and efficient economic order without causing unacceptable reserve losses," a recent International Monetary Fund report on Libya said.

"In the event of persistent reserve losses, the validity of the liberalisation process could come into question amid calls for its reversal," it added.

Reforms begun last year encouraged limited private enterprise after years of tight state control of the economy.

The 1989 budget set aside 150 million dinars (about \$510 million) for imports by individuals and partnerships. Diplomats said some officials were diverting allocations to friends and relatives.

Under government decrees this year, only gold, tobacco, medicines, insecticides, petroleum products and foodstuffs

will remain state import monopolies.

Private businessmen might also be allowed to import goods with their own foreign exchange — a revolutionary step which implicitly recognises the existence of a black market in hard currencies.

But the scope of economic reform is limited. An official document obtained by Reuters this month indicated Tripoli will not allow capitalist-style companies to emerge.

Tripoli is also reluctant to devalue the dinar to encourage exports and scrap price controls, measures recommended by foreign economic advisers.

"We are satisfied with the way the exchange rate system works but will review it if the need arises," an official said.

Diplomats said reservations about the private sector were holding back the break up of the monopoly on imports enjoyed by big state corporations.

Some corporation officials had been making profits on the side and did not want to give these to a new class of professional businessmen, the diplomats said.

Libya says that, in line with past practice, it will not borrow from abroad. The country has no external debt.

## Gulf Bank weekly market review KD mostly firmer

### Kuwaiti dinar

Based on last week's opening middle market foreign exchange rates, the KD exchange rate was slightly firmer against the US dollar during the week at 296.07 Ks compared with its week before last closing of 296.56 Ks. The KD was slightly higher against the pound sterling, ending the week at 466.10 Ks compared with its week before last closing of 466.26 Ks. The KD was lower against the DM ending the week at 167.47 Ks compared with its week before last closing of 165.63 Ks. The KD was lower against the SFR ending the week at 186.21 Ks compared with its week before last closing of 186.11 Ks, according to Gulf Bank weekly market review.

The KD was higher against the Jordanian dinar ending the week at 432.22 Ks compared with its week before last closing of 432.93 Ks. The KD was higher against all other GCC currencies compared to the week before last rates.

As for the KD money market, short-term interbank offer rates traded relatively within a very narrow range over the week. One month interbank rates continued to trade within the same previous week range of 8.56 per cent rate. Three-month interbank rates also traded at the same previous week range of 8.50-8.56 per cent rate. Rates for longer periods traded lower around 8.43 per cent-8.50 per cent range for both 6 and 12 months.

As for Treasury Bills, the CBK announced its new Treasury Bill issue No. (82) of KD125 million, with effective and maturity dates of Dec 13, 1989 and March 14, 1990 respectively.

### World stock markets

Wall Street stock markets moved lower over last week, hurt by profit-taking following recent gains and by buyers' reluctance to take a decisive stand before knowing more about the health of the US economy and the likelihood of further interest rate declines. However, prices recovered later in the week on fresh signs of economic weakness. The US unemployment rate rose to 5.4 per cent in November, while manufacturing jobs declined by 27,000 jobs. The Dow Jones Industrial Average opened the week at 2753 and closed lower at 2731, recording a loss of 17 points over the previous week's closing of 2748.

Share prices on the London Stock Exchange continued to firm last week, aided by speculative gains in the property and building material sectors and by buying for the long term which began on Monday. Although the market looks set to post further gains, the pace of growth in the FTSE index is expected to slow this week, which sees first dealings in UK water companies. The FTSE-100 index opened the week at 2303 and closed higher at 2359, recording a gain of 49 points over the previous week's closing at 2310.

### US dollar

The dollar traded narrowly mixed for the most part of the week in quiet trading. The dollar's recent weakness is mainly owed to the slowdown of US manufacturing sector as well as end of year holidays.

US unemployment rate for the month of November rose to 5.4 per cent last month from 5.3 per cent the previous month. The non-farm payrolls rose 210,000 which is above forecasts of 147,000 however, manufacturing jobs fell twice the amount forecasted. The manufacturing sector has declined for the eighth straight month, led by a loss of auto-industry jobs. While the October's non-farm payroll data was sharply revised down to 93,000 from 233,000. The revision which amounted to 61 per cent from earlier reported figures raised tremendous questions among traders as well as economists regarding the accuracy of the recently released November figures.

US factory orders for the month of October dropped for the second month by 0.2 per cent to \$233.9 billion, compared to 0.17 per cent drop in September, while both months heavily influenced by a swing in defence orders. October factory orders have recently been negatively affected by the slumping durable goods sector.

Furthermore, US home sales for the month of October fell 0.5 per cent to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 649,000 units. The sharpest increase in home sales occurred in the north-east where sales rose 47.8 per cent in October, while the total Nationwide number of homes actually sold amounted to 57,000 units.

A forecast by a leading investment firm showed US economic growth is expected to be slower in the coming year, while interest rates decline. Furthermore, the US dollar is also expected to fall unevenly in response to slower US growth, lower US interest rates compared to overseas, the modest (and not major) improvement in US trade balance and finally the continued difficulty in reducing the US budget deficit.

### Pound sterling

The pound opened the week against the US dollar at \$1.5625/35 and closed higher at \$1.5826/30 compared to its week before last closing at \$1.5610/20. Earlier in the week, the pound weakened following news that Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher won 314 out of an eligible 374 votes in the parliamentary party's annual leadership election. The results were not supportive for the pound's prospects. However, the pound recovered and held steady later in the week.

UK Chancellor of the Exchequer Major said last Monday British monetary policy would have to remain tight for a considerable period to get inflation under control. Britain's gold and currency reserves fell a smaller than expected underling \$931 million in November and compared with October's record \$2.9 billion drop. UK new consumer credit and final retail sales for October were neutral and had no impact. New consumer credit was \$2.70 billion in October after \$3.42 billion in September, while October retail sales were revised to a fall of 0.4 per cent from the provisional 0.7 per cent decline, following a 0.6 per cent rise in September.

The pound's movement is seen limited ahead of this week's slew of UK economic indicators which include Producer Prices, industrial production, unemployment, current account and retail prices.

### Japanese yen

The yen opened the week against the US dollar at 143.60/70 yen and closed lower at 144.20/30 yen compared to its week before last closing at 143.30/40 yen. The yen's weakness stems largely from the failure by Bank of Japan (BOJ) to raise its discount rate, which is currently at 3.75 per cent.

Japan's Gross National Product (GNP) for the second quarter rose 2.9 per cent after a 0.8 per cent drop in the previous quarter, while Japan's annualised GNP rose a real 12.2 per cent in third quarter compared with a 3 per cent drop in second quarter. As for inflation which is measured by the GNP deflator, the year-on-year inflation rate was 1.7 per cent in the third quarter compared to 1.9 per cent in the second quarter. On the other hand, Japan's current account surplus is seen coming down. Clearly and likely to get much more significantly in this fiscal year ending in March than in the fiscal year 1988. The government previously announced current account surplus target for this fiscal year at \$71 billion, against \$77.3 billion in 1988/89 and \$84.5 billion in 1987/88. The yen is unlikely to trade out of its current trading range. Furthermore the possibility of the dollar breaking under 143 yen or advancing above 145 is very remote. Accordingly the yen is most likely to trade against the dollar around the 144 range.

### Deutsche mark

The mark opened the week against the dollar at 1.7833/43 marks and closed the week higher at 1.7695/05 marks, compared to its week before last closing at 1.7865/75 marks. The mark's strength continued to benefit from firming W. German interest rates, as well as Eastern Europe's political liberalisation, which is seen ultimately strengthening the W. German economy.

W. Germany's November unemployment rate rose to 7.6 per cent from 7.3 per cent in October. The rise was due to East German immigrants looking for new jobs, while the number of unadjusted jobless figures in the last quarter rose 18 million in October, but fell from the 2.09 million figure of November last year. The new November unemployment figure was the lowest since 1981.

### French franc

The French franc opened the week against the dollar at 6.0890/10 FFR and closed higher at 6.0465/85 FFR compared to its week before last closing at 6.1040



# 'I stole my kids'

By Jadranka Porter

MIXED marriages are often considered more fragile than those where both partners come from the same background. The story of Jennifer (not her real name) seems to confirm that view. After her unhappy marriage crumbled, Jennifer, an American Catholic-turned-Muslim divorcee in her late 30s, stayed on in Kuwait to be near her two children who are being brought up by their Kuwaiti father and stepmother.

Jennifer has not fought to get custody because she feels she cannot provide for their needs. Although cultural differences affected her life in Kuwait, she refuses to lay all the blame for her unhappiness on cultural incompatibility. In a heart-rending story, which she admits may be coloured with some bias, she speaks frankly about the pain and frustration she suffered during her 15-year-long marriage, and the conflict within herself brought about by her move to Kuwait. She also urges Western girls, planning to marry an Arab, to learn more about the life and laws in the Middle East.

Last month when Jennifer, went for one of the regular weekly visits to her Kuwaiti daughter she was taken aback. The teen-age girl was wearing a headscarf prescribed by Islam for Muslim women.

Ruining.

Although saddened, she did not discourage her daughter for fear of ruining their close and affectionate relationship. "I don't like her to be pushed into something which is opposite from what I feel. But at the same time I want her to feel good about herself," she told the Arab Times. Jennifer says she knows of American women who would not be seen in public with their daughters who wear the headscarf. But she is adamant: "I would never, never reject my child".

The episode with headscarf is only one example which demonstrates cultural differences she has experienced ever since she married a Kuwaiti engineer in the mid-1970s.

Torn between Western and Arab cultures, her Catholic upbringing and Islam, her adopted religion, and fearing the thought of being a single parent, Jennifer was for years commuting between the US and Kuwait, separations and reunions.

In the process, she claims, she suffered physical abuse, humiliation, fear and frustration. But what kept her going was her children, a nine-year-old boy and a teen-age girl.

Having divorced her Kuwaiti husband several years ago she stayed on in Kuwait to be close to her children and in the hope that one day she will start a new life with them somewhere in the West.

But the years of strain, as she strove to cope with financial insecurity and to come to terms with her husband and his family, local laws and traditions, and with her own self, have taken their toll. Jennifer now admits that she is getting tired.

"I was very strong when I first got divorced. But I find the whole thing exhausting. I am barely making it with my salary here. One more lousy job and that's it. The more problems I have in this society, the more I feel drawn away from my children and tempted to leave," she says in despair.

Although she feels the Kuwaiti law is not on her side and her husband is not likely to relinquish his custody rights she still hopes to leave Kuwait with her children.

In fact, she once did. "I stole my children and left secretly for the US," she says, recalling one of many unhappy episodes in her

married life that did not end up the way she had planned.

Then, as now, she felt she could not support her children on her own. Although her mother helped her, the strain on her was more than she could bear and when Jennifer's husband came to the States her mother advised her to return to Kuwait.

For a long time Jennifer blamed her mother for a new bout of unhappiness that followed.

But today she knows that much of the responsibility for her sorry state lies with her.

She said her husband did not prepare her for what she was to face in Kuwait.

"When I got over here I found his family didn't like the way I dressed, the way I spoke, the fact that I was Western, that I wasn't a Muslim," she recalls.

"Expected to undergo a total transformation from a modern Western woman to a submissive wife in a Muslim home, she found herself going to and fro between what she was told she should be and what she really was. Unable to cope successfully she felt she was failing both her husband and herself.

When he first hit her her ordeal doubled.

"I should have divorced him that very minute," she says. But she didn't. In fact this incident set a precedent for many more that were to follow.

Both were fully aware that Jennifer had no financial resources of her own, no family support in Kuwait, no friends to go to. This intimidated her into repeatedly trying to seek a new beginning and save the marriage, while her husband was going through spells of affection followed by physical abuse.

In Kuwait Jennifer could not fight him in court. "It simply wasn't a clean-cut case of wife battering. If he hit me once, I hit him three times," she says.

Arrested

But when her husband pulled a knife on her, after an argument during their stay in the US, she had him arrested. Incidents like this inevitably led to a divorce which in itself was not easy to obtain due to her husband's reluctance to let her go.

She found after arriving in Kuwait, that laws do not protect a woman the way they do in the US and that she could do little without her husband's consent. She was well into the seventh month of pregnancy when she learned about laws on custody of children.

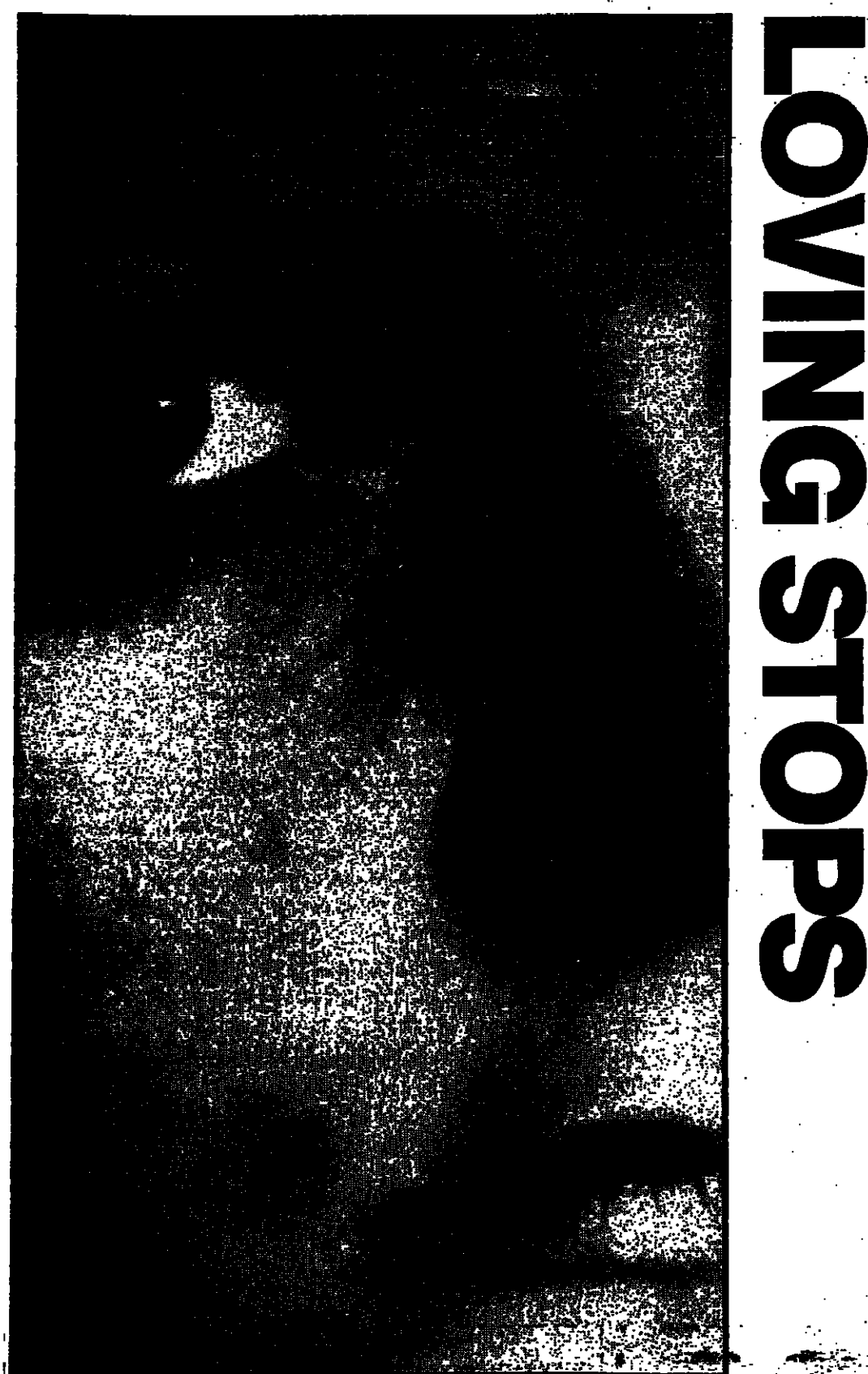
Once her divorce came through, she was left without a home and her children. She had no pre-nuptial agreement which specifies the amount the wife is entitled to in case of divorce. Although she wanted the Kuwaiti nationality her husband was against it and therefore she was not entitled to social benefits. There was no alimony and she had to get a job.

She is not fighting to get her children back because she feels that their father could give them a better home. "He has a PhD, he has a big house and social standing. I don't fear for the children's safety and that they would be physically neglected. He has the means and power to take care of them, so let him do it and let him do it well," says Jennifer. "I simply don't have the earning power my husband has."

Since her divorce Jennifer has had a lot of time to pore over her marriage.

Despite her bad experience, Jennifer has not entirely turned against the Arab culture or mixed marriages. But she feels that there should be much more information in the US about Arab customs, religion and family pressures, instead of stories about wealthy Arabs.

He has no doubt that he can bring up the child single-handedly and also take better care of him than his mother. "It is often her parents and neighbours who look after the child instead of her," he



## 'I love my son'

By Jadranka Porter

Arab Times staff

IN July 1987, Sami's American wife Catherine told her husband she was going home with their one-year-old son for a two-month vacation.

As he waved them goodbye at Kuwait airport it never occurred to him that this was a final farewell to their life together. Catherine never came back despite repeated pleas from Sami, a 34-year-old Iraqi American.

Sami belongs to a group of men who believe they can be a better parent to their child than its own mother. Devastated by a sudden loss of his wife and son, and having failed to get them to return to him, he experienced the same grief and sense of deprivation as many wives abandoned by their husbands do. Indeed, the concern he shows for his son matches the feelings expressed by foreign mothers in Kuwait who do not have custody of their children. In trying to get their children back, he and they face the same task but a different set of difficulties.

He saw his family for the first time in two years seven months ago when he went to the States to attend a hearing in their divorce case his wife had filed without his knowledge.

He still cannot believe what happened to him. "I thought if we lasted eight years, we could last for ever," he says.

What hurts most is the loss of his son. Sami has vowed to go back to the States in a year or two and challenge his wife's custody rights.

"I love my son at least as much if not more than his mother. I think of him every day and I miss him. I used to change his nappies and bathe him," says Sami.

He has no doubt that he can bring up the child single-handedly and also take better care of him than his mother. "It is often her parents and neighbours who look after the child instead of her," he

says.

He is equally confident that he will get custody of the child once he settles in the US. "There are no rules in this game. The stronger win. And I have plenty of energy. The judge told me to wait until I return to the States. She won because she was on her home ground," says Sami, without bitterness in his voice.

He doesn't know whether he would get back together with his wife. Rolling the film back he is trying to pinpoint the root cause of their break up.

"This would have not happened had she not gone home, where her parents persuaded her not to return to Kuwait. It would have not happened if we had not come to Kuwait which she disliked. And we would have not come here had I got a job, as I had planned, in Georgia, instead of succumbing to her pleas to go to Florida where her cousins live," he thinks aloud.

Despite difficulties, especially in Kuwait, Sami believes they had a reasonably good marriage.

They started together as students in Virginia. After graduation Sami was under pressure to repay a student loan. For six months he unsuccessfully looked for a job in the US and was finally forced to take up an appointment in Kuwait where his family has lived for close to 20 years.

His wife joined him in 1986 despite alarming American newspaper reports about the Gulf war. But she never adapted to life in Kuwait. Unable to cope and protesting against the way of life in Kuwait, she refused to work or drive and clashed with Sami's family.

The birth of their son, contrary to Sami's expectations, did not make much difference.

Sami harbours no rancour against his wife. Even as he enumerates her shortcomings such as being immature, cool, spoilt, bossy and something of a crab he tempers his remarks with some self-criticism. "Although I tried to please her and give her a choice I wasn't 100 per cent understanding," he says.

(Continued from Page 1)

workers, judges, family, diplomats, psychologists and legislators have worked both in and outside Kuwait to help these parents find the least painful solution. Their efforts are often circumscribed by a clash of cultures, religious traditions and different legal systems in the countries the parents come from.

As the last resort the disputing spouses seek a solution for their problems in courts.

But courts and laws do not help much in resolving the problems, claims a Kuwaiti lawyer Abdullah Rkayan.

"Too right," quips Barbara Mezo, who is fighting her Egyptian husband in Cairo courts for the custody of their two children after he kidnapped them from New York despite an American court order giving her custody.

Speaking for many non-Arab women distressed by the loss of their children due to different laws in their and their husband's countries she said bitterly: "He commits a crime and I pay the damages. Where is the justice."

Counter-balance

This question is asked by other parents as well. In Kuwait some parents feel that rules should be more clearly defined to ensure a fair decision. They insist that whatever rights are due to women in an Islamic society should be given to them without fail; not only because they deserve them but also to counter-balance claims that men always enjoy a privileged position in a Muslim society.

Sami, who lost custody of his son in the US believes that those who have power have a better chance of winning a custody case. "There are no rules in this game. The stronger win," he claims. "And it does help if you fight for your rights on your home ground," he says in a statement confirmed by practice. "The courts are there only to help both sides conduct a normal life and children's well being is the most important issue," Rkayan goes on.

But what is "normal" in the eyes of American and European laws may not be acceptable in Kuwait, and vice versa. Indeed American and European court orders have incensed some Kuwaiti parents and prompted them to action in breach of these laws. Similarly, some Western parents who are subjected to Kuwaiti laws believe they are being treated unfairly and some have acted in defiance of Kuwaiti court orders.

As one young Kuwaiti points out: "The laws of a country were made for the citizens of that country. It is not surprising that foreigners find them difficult to digest." Indeed, parental child abduction is not known to be a problem among divorced Kuwaiti couples. But custody of children is the most contentious issue in divorce procedures concerning mixed couples.

Negotiations

While the American courts, for example, are likely to award custody to the mother, in Kuwait the children can be taken from

their mother's custody after the age of seven for sons and nine for daughters.

The incompatibility of Kuwaiti and American laws has sparked a series of abductions in both countries.

More than 50 cases of parental abduction involving Kuwaitis have been registered by the State Department in Washington. They have kidnapped their children from the US in violation of American court orders granting custody to the American mother. The State Department is currently negotiating 12 such cases with the Kuwaiti government demanding the return of the abducted children who are American citizens. However, a man (but not a woman) who kidnaps his child has committed no crime according to Kuwaiti law and is, therefore, not liable to prosecution or extradition.

Since Kuwait, in common with other Arab states, has not signed the Hague Convention of the Civil Aspects of Parental International Abduction the United States has no other means at its disposal but persuasion to ensure the return of abducted American children. A State Department spokesman said the countries whose laws are based on religious principles are the most difficult and emotionally sensitive areas for their negotiations.

The State Department's role in the Middle East is, therefore, often limited to locating the abducted child, working with local authorities to make sure the child's interests are attended to and helping US citizens obtain legal advice in a foreign country.

US Senator Alan Dixon from Illinois has led the efforts to punish international parental abduction. He has proposed a bill that, if passed, would fine the abductors and even jail them for a maximum of three years. The move is meant to fill the void in the United States federal law which does not consider parental abduction a crime.

Clout

Even if the bill is passed it will not put an end to parental abduction and there won't be any FBI agents in Kuwait chasing violators of American laws. The bill would mainly serve as a deterrent and would give the State Department more clout in dealing with foreign governments for the return of abducted children.

Other discrepancies between Kuwaiti and Western laws can be seen in provisions ruling the husband's responsibilities after the divorce. In Kuwait, the father is obliged to provide for his children even if they are in their mother's custody. But unlike in the West, the husband retains all the property acquired during the marriage and is obliged to pay alimony only for three months after the divorce.

Absence of alimony has forced divorced American women with no independent funds to forgo the right of custody.

Said Jennifer, an American divorcee whose two children live with their Kuwaiti father and step-mother: "I am barely making it with my salary here. Their

father can give them a better life. He has a PhD, a big house and social standing. I simply don't have the earning power my husband has."

But even though incompatible laws can aggravate a husband-wife dispute, they are by no means the only hurdle in search of a fair settlement.

Problems are many among couples where spouses come from countries with nearly identical laws and religious traditions. Such was the case in the early 1980s with Egyptian wives and their Kuwaiti husbands.

The rate of divorce among these couples was so rampant — in 1984, 756 Egyptian women divorced by Kuwaitis sought help at the Kuwaiti consulate in Cairo — that the Cabinet set up a special investigating committee which revealed that most of these marriages were between elderly married Kuwaiti men and young Egyptians of poor financial and educational background.

Measures

The Kuwaiti government resorted to a drastic measure. It mandated that any Kuwaiti planning to marry an Egyptian girl would have to obtain a clearance certificate. These were not issued to elderly Kuwaiti men or those who were already married.

If they got married outside Kuwait their marriage certificates were not recognised and they were precluded from bringing their brides to Kuwait. In addition, those who had divorced their Egyptian wives were compelled to pay child support and provide documents that would entitle their children to Kuwaiti nationality. This has helped relieve the suffering of Egyptian wives that have been classified as social problems.

But foreign mothers of Kuwaiti children who have been granted custody are not left totally helpless in Kuwait. The state provides them with an apartment and if they are jobless with an allowance of up to KD100 per month plus KD60 for each child. Women whose husbands received government housing on the grounds that they were married are entitled to stay in the house after the divorce if they have been declared legal custodians of the children.

While regulations and inter-governmental co-operation in custody cases can help bring normality into children's lives they can do nothing to obliterate the nightmare they were subjected to.

Pain and trauma can be alleviated if the child is surrounded by love and attention, says Dr Marwan. But there is no law to prescribe the right dose of affection to offset the hatred children witness or sense between hostile parents.

"Show me an edict that will heal the wounds of an emotionally disturbed child," challenges Marwan.

As individual cases focus on the suffering and deprivation of children and parents who have grown apart, researchers are debating the merits of inter-marriages.

To be continued tomorrow

KUWAIT CHESS FEDERATION

MEMBER OF F.I.D.E



الإتحاد الكويتي للشطرنج

مجلس الاتحاد الدولي

## ANNOUNCEMENT

### KUWAIT CHESS FEDERATION

Kuwait Chess Federation would like to announce the opening of the 10th Sheikh Sabah Al Salem Al Sabah Memorial Open Chess Championship, which will be held on 16.12.1989.

Registration for male and female competitors will take place at K.C.F. premises in Jabriya, between 6 pm and 9 pm from 3.12.1989 to 12.12.1989, daily, except Friday.

(Each participant should bring one photo)

Winners will be awarded prizes, K.C.F. reserves the right of rejecting any applicant without giving any reasons, even he is qualified for the Championships.

PRESIDENT OF THE SUPREME ORGANISING COMMITTEE.

## 'I am full of anger'

By Jadranka Porter

Arab Times staff

BEFORE she got married, Katya (not her real name) was a typical Russian country-girl — blonde with lively green eyes, high-spirited, bubbly, and somewhat naive.

Nine turbulent years later her dreams are crushed, her mood is sombre and she has lost much of her self-esteem.

Speaking in a quivering voice and barely managing to hold back the tears she says: "I want to go some place where no one can hear me shout and shout. I am full of anger."

Katya, divorced from her South Yemeni husband with whom she has three daughters, is fighting for custody of her children in Kuwaiti courts.

With no money to pay the lawyers, she is waging simultaneously four court battles on her own, three cases filed by her and one by her former husband.

As she grapples with her situation, Katya joins the group of women who have entered marriage with little or no knowledge of their husband's background or culture. Learning about that culture at the time of the marriage break up is painful. Feeling dejected and hurt Katya's main interest now is to protect her

daughters. But her husband wants the same. As she has discovered he is a formidable rival.

Recently Kuwait's appeals Court ruled that although she has custody of her youngest six-year-old daughter she cannot have her passport. The child's documents, including her school files, remain in the possession of the father.

Katya's main battle, however, is for her other two daughters, aged 12 and 9 who live with their father.

Her fears of another unfavourable court decision stem from what she perceives as her husband's manipulative character, false statements and use of influence. But she also blames herself for starting legal proceedings without proper advice, no real friends to support her and no backing from the Soviet embassy.

Now she feels it is too late to repair whatever damage might have been done by ill-informed advice or inability to respond at legal proceedings she did not understand because they were in Arabic.

Ever since her husband threw her out of their home in April 1988, Katya's life has been an uphill struggle. In December 1988, without her knowledge, her husband took Amina and

Aisha, the daughters in his custody, to North Yemen where his brother lives. Katya, who has visitation rights, insisted the girls be brought back. Desperate and frightened that she might never see them again she filed a case against her husband in the criminal court.

Katya caught the first glimpse of her daughters in court, nine months after they left Kuwait. The 12-year-old Amina was completely covered with only two slits for eyes on her veil. The younger Aisha wore a headscarf. The girls did not speak to their mother. They told the court that they didn't want to live with her.

Although the court was to rule according to the law in South Yemen, the father's home country, which grants custody of daughters under the age of 15 to the mother, Katya lost that custody battle. The case is now before the Supreme Court.

However, her husband has now obtained North Yemeni citizenship which does not give custody of children to non-Yemeni women. Katya says she was told at the North Yemeni embassy in Kuwait that "there is nothing for foreign women in our country even if they are Muslim."

Her attempts to exercise her visitation rights

have been repeatedly frustrated. "Each time I went to see them no one opened the door," she says. She saw her two elder daughters last in August in Fahab police station, where she had gone to seek police help. She was precluded from seeing them again after the police station informed the court that her daughters do not want to see her. Katya's husband's new wife told her not to bother to call. When she went to the girls' school, the schoolmaster threatened to call the police. "I am sure that he (the father) tried to turn my daughters against me. He wants them to forget me."

"Aisha told my youngest daughter, Silvi, in court that if women do not wear a headscarf a man with a big knife will come after them," relates Katya.

Her husband filed a case against her for custody of Silvi. The case is being debated in the Appeals Court.

"I fear for Silvi. I am afraid my husband may kidnap her," she says.

She admits that she had plenty of warning that her husband might be merciless in efforts to achieve his goals. She now blames herself for not acting on these warning signals.

150/21/21/21



# Renting men for fun, profit

## A good cause

NEW YORK, (Reuters). How can a woman go on an expensive date with an eligible bachelor of her choice, with no strings attached, all for a worthy cause?

Rent one for charity. In recent years, various charities around the United States have been organising "bachelor bids" or "rent-a-gent" parties as part of their fund-raising efforts.

They generally target single professional women who can afford to bid for a date with one of a group of carefully screened bachelors. Those who can't afford to bid or prefer not to can still go to the party and watch the action for a modest admission fee.

The bidding usually starts at about \$50. Most bachelors "sell" for between \$200 and \$600, but some have fetched \$1,500 for the charities. The bids, actually donations, are tax-deductible.

"It's a fun event, and in a lot of ways it works very well," said Phil Bonfiglio, national director of special events for the American Cancer Society.

"We hold 10 to 15 a year and usually raise about a half a million dollars," he said. "It's kind of like the women going to the places where the male strippers are. Those places are packed."

The women receive a programme providing a brief description of the bachelors and the date package being offered. The date is usually drinks, dinner and a show.

Bonfiglio said that although the bachelors pay for the dates, he assumes that their expenses are also tax-deductible.

"The women do seem to turn out," said Paul Faetz, director of special events for the Leukemia Society. "And they have a lot of fun. These guys are parading on a runway like in a beauty contest. The shoe is on the other foot now."

More than 150 women attended a recent auction in New York to benefit the Cooley's Anaemia

Foundation. "I think women realise that the traditional ways of meeting men are out," said Joan Antonello, who works with the foundation. "You have to do something new in the 1990s. You have to use your imagination. And I don't think any of these women feel threatened."

Most of the women at the Cooley's Anaemia auction said they participated for fun, as well as for the remote possibility of meeting someone.

"It's a kick. I just think it's fun," said one woman, who identified herself only as Dale.

Another woman had a more traditional point of view. "I don't pay for any man to take me out," said Susan Rogers. "I just came to watch."

The charities try to recruit established or prominent men to participate. "They are usually pretty stable people in the community—who have a lot to lose if they misbehave," said Faetz.

In order to safeguard against a potentially embarrassing situation, the foundations plant bidders in the audience.

"If no one bids on them, you've lost them," Faetz said. The bachelors, adding that, fortunately, the plan don't have to jump in very often.

Interestingly, none of the foundations holds auctions of women because the perception is that the public would not approve.

"I think people want to stay away from that because of the mores of the time," said Faetz. Bonfiglio added, "I don't know if the perception of bachelor auctions is even kosher (appropriate) — but auctioning women off definitely doesn't seem kosher."

According to Helene Daly Attanisi, a volunteer for Cooley's Anaemia, bachelor auctions are eminently appropriate.

"Women have been exploited for years. It's about time men were exploited," she said.



Circus charity gala

West German actor Guenther Strack lets a goat jump through a ring as he plays his part in a circus charity gala in Munich. (Reuters wirephoto)

# Save Roman city call

## Threat of floods

LEPTIS MAGNA, Libya. (Reuters). Libya has launched an international appeal to protect Leptis Magna, a beautifully preserved and seldom visited Roman city on the Mediterranean coast, from the threat of floods.

Archaeologists plan a network of embankments to guard the ancient temples, markets and baths, as fine as anything outside Italy itself, after a nearby Wadi burst its banks in 1988 and 1987.

Tonnes of mud need to be cleared away from damaged areas and fallen columns put back in place in the impressive colonnaded street, which leads down to a stunning seventh century BC Phoenician harbour.

High prices, visa restrictions and its international image have kept Libya off the ordinary tourist map.

A visitor to Leptis Magna, which would be a tourist showpiece almost anywhere else, has the eerie experience of wandering among its columns almost alone.

Omar Ali Mahjoub, who runs the site for the antiquities department, said concrete embankments stretching 400 to 500 metres (yards) would be built along the Wadi Lebda skirting the city to the east.

Earthworks that protected the city from flash floods in ancient times have worn away.

Ali Al Khadouri, head of the antiquities department, told Reuters that Libya would go ahead with its 30-million dollar preservation plan even if no cash arrived from abroad.

"With our budget it might take 20 years but it will be done," he said.

A triumphal arch built in 203 AD to mark a visit by Emperor Septimus Severus, who was born here, is already being restored.

The government has increased spending on antiquities. New museums have been built, including the lavish \$35 million Jamahiri Museum in Tripoli's Red Fort.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (Unesco), which in 1982 designated Leptis Magna a world heritage site, has responded to the appeal by sending some water pumps and two dump trucks — not enough, in Libya's view.

A government decree last month eased restrictions on tourist visas. The move could bring in more visitors to join the diplomats and oil company workers who are now Leptis Magna's most frequent foreign admirers.

"Libya welcomes foreign visitors. We very much want them to come and see our heritage," Khadouri said.

Local schoolchildren shown around by guides are told that Leptis Magna is an Arab city, as its Phoenician founders were Arab.

Even if Leptis Magna is restored to its former glory, Libya will have a long way to go before it can compete with neighbours Tunisia and Egypt for tourists.

Because the dinar is so overvalued, a meal in a Tripoli restaurant costs more than \$20. Because of Islamic law, visitors cannot find a beer to wash it down with.

For those who miss the local bus, the 160-km (100-mile) taxi ride from Tripoli to Leptis Magna can cost 50 dinars (\$70).

# Canadian centre uses hi-tech to steer ships clear of ice

## Tracking a different kind of adversary

OTTAWA, Dec 10, (AP). A huge map with coloured markers dominates one wall and banks of computers occupy another. The scene resembles a military headquarters, but the Canadian Ice Centre is tracking a different kind of adversary.

Modelled on a military operations centre, the government-funded centre bills itself as the world's most sophisticated monitor of icebergs and ice conditions that can endanger shipping. Its information goes to icebreakers, ships and other vessels trying

to navigate Canada's vast northwestern waterways.

The centre moved recently into new offices across from the national gallery of Canada in a renovated building.

In its operations room, markers on the map of Canada indicate the location of icebreakers, freighters and other vessels. Satellite dishes and a short-wave radio antenna on the building's roof transmit directly to the far north, about 1,500 miles (2,400 kilometres) north.

The nerve-centre is a powerful

computer that receives and transmits the ceaseless flow of information about ice conditions, often up to 1,000 million bytes daily. Compiling such information and sending it back to vessels once took 36 to 48 hours. Using computers, radars and satellite transmission, the task now takes about six hours.

The Soviet Union, the only other country with comparable northern territories, relies on very powerful icebreakers but has nothing compared to the technology accumulated in the

Canadian Ice Centre.

The US Coast Guard operates an international ice patrol to track the southern boundary of icebergs, from the grand banks off of Newfoundland to the main trans-Atlantic shipping lanes. It was formed after the Titanic sank in 1912 about 320 nautical miles southeast of Newfoundland.

Although the bulk of Canada's population lives in its southernmost areas, relatively unaffected by the harshest winter conditions, ice monitoring and forecasting can be crucial in the

far north.

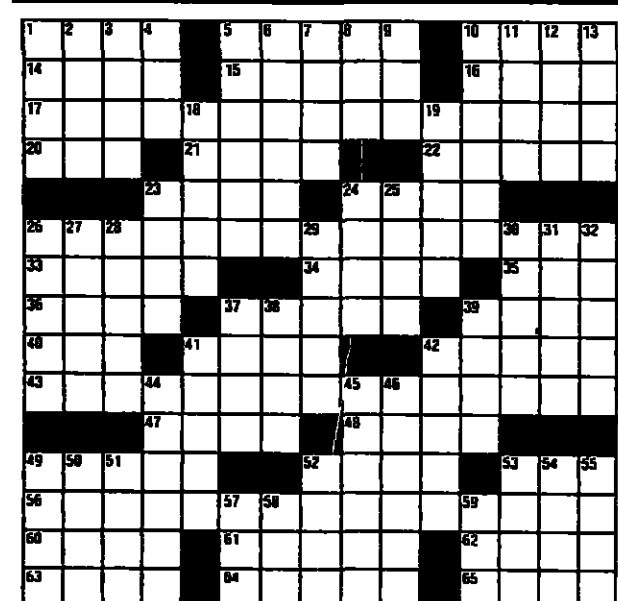
Last September, David Pollock, chief of the ice forecast division said the centre noticed that winds were blowing ice southward toward an oil refinery just north of Bathurst Island. Three ships, including a pair of Canadian Coast Guard icebreakers, were docked at the refinery to refuel. The incoming ice threatened to trap them there. The centre radioed the ships and urged them to head south earlier than planned. "They pulled out early with

half a load of fuel, rather than risk staying," he said. "We provided the information that helped them make the decision."

Between October and May, when shipping in the Arctic is often impossible, the centre concentrates on conditions in the Gulf of St. Lawrence and the coast of Newfoundland, where shipping still can navigate with the support of tracking and icebreakers. It also monitors the US Great Lakes.

In summer, the centre focuses on the Arctic shipping channels.

### TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- Actor Rip
  - French valley
  - Winged victory
  - Flute's neighbor
  - Pillow filler
  - Saharan
  - Sport site
  - Former Spanish queen
  - Grimm beginning
  - "Swell!"
  - "— boy!"
  - Gaelic
  - Lillian Hellman play: 1941
  - Cornhusker city
  - Rioja, e.g.
  - Zip
  - Upward slope
  - Book part
  - Gooden's goals
  - Concorde, for short
  - Rigging holder
  - Muddled
  - 1863
  - Budget factor
  - Paralking
  - Show patience
  - Moreover
  - Acquire
  - Brief acting role for a star
  - Currier's partner
  - Rigid
  - Sunken fence
  - Bucky of baseball
  - Old hat
  - Jot
- DOWN**
- , or not...
  - Scottish seaside resort
  - Dickens' Miss Dattle
  - Formerly called
  - Shed
  - Hurler Boyd
  - At liberty
  - Embarrassed
  - Lincoln's
  - "Cap'n —"
  - Hall-of-Fame OB
  - Unyielding
  - Loving
  - MacDonald's co-star
  - Former S.A.
  - Official
  - Venerate
  - Long for
  - 24 Reedy
  - Lacoste
  - Defeat
  - Mennonite
  - Savor
  - Spin
  - Activated
  - Saltwater
  - Martini and Lancaster
  - Bridge
  - Segment
  - Galba's successor
  - Tend
  - "The Maltese Falcon" star
  - Member of the clergy
  - Manicurists, at times
  - 48 Wild
  - 49 Bitter
  - 50 Salute
  - 51 Sunday closing
  - 52 Mirrors
  - 53 Annoyance
  - 54 Iterate
  - 55 Group
  - 57 One of Orphan Annie's protectors
  - 58 School org.
  - 59 "Gotcha!"

### ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

ROCKS EMUS PHASE  
IPON CARL EAGER  
NENA AERO ANODE  
GRAMERCYPARK  
SAINTELL SELL LAS  
TEA TYRANT  
SHARE LAME ODEA  
CENTRALPARKWEST  
ALIE DYER RENTE  
MISSAL USO  
POE DESK KNAVES  
CARNEGIEHILL  
STOOP ARUM ELLA  
ORBIT KEMP ALEK  
PAINIS ESPY DIANK

### GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF  
WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

♠8 ♥K4 ♦96542 ♣J9765  
Partner opens the bidding with one spade. What action do you take?

Q.5—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♠J2 ♥Q764 ♦K932 ♣A107  
Partner opens the bidding with one diamond. What do you respond?

Q.6—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♠87632 ♥AKJ54 ♦8 ♣63  
Partner opens the bidding with one diamond. What do you respond?

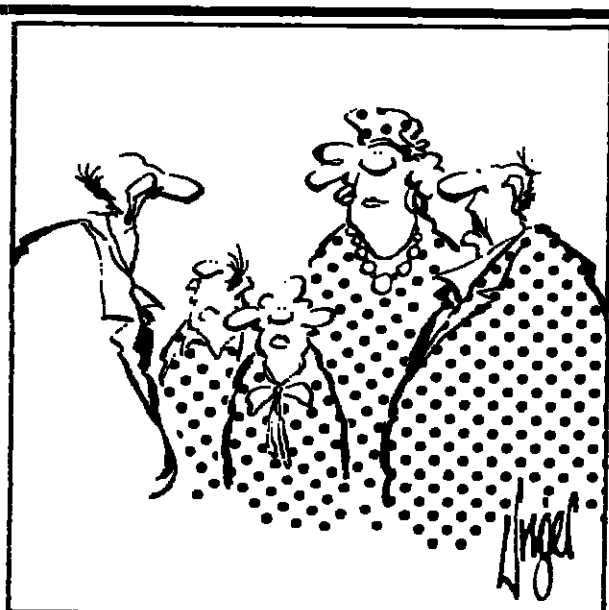
Q.1—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♠A10 ♥AKJ1052 ♦6 ♣Q974

Partner opens the bidding with one club. What do you respond?

Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:  
♠Q753 ♥Q865 ♦QJ62 ♣7  
The bidding has proceeded:  
North East South West  
1 ♣ Pass 1 ♦ Pass  
2 NT Pass ?

What action do you take?  
Q.3—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♠AK73 ♥J97 ♦J873 ♣92  
Partner opens the bidding with one heart. What do you respond?

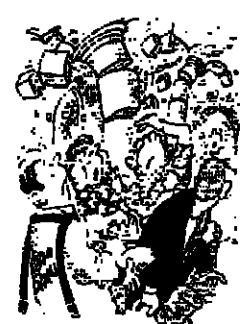
Q.4—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:



"She makes all her own clothes."



"Oh... not spaghetti bolognese again!"



"I told our Sharon not to wear white!"

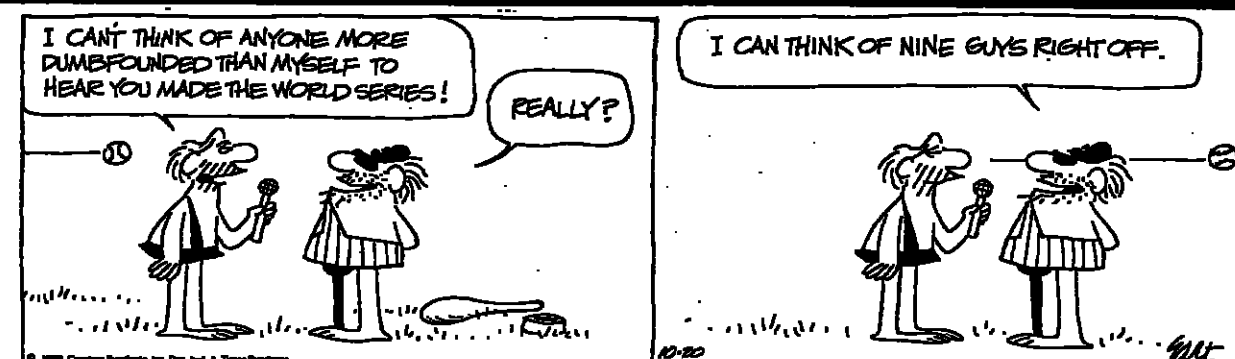
### THE WIZARD OF ID

By Brian Parker and Johnny Hart



### B.C.

By Johnny Hart



### YOUR STARS

- Aries (March 20 - April 18)**  
You will be more able to make the initiative and more self-reliant. Others will rally to you. You are however all too liable to run out of steam and will have to make a steadfast effort.
- Taurus (April 19 - May 19)**  
There is no time to lose, nor must you squander your energies. You will tend to be rather on the nervous side. Avoid concerning yourself with secondary matters. Be resilient.
- Gemini (May 20 - June 20)**  
Make sure you do not give your partner any cause for discontent. You will find it a little difficult to take the right decision, but you will do so. Keep an open mind towards change and towards new ideas.
- Cancer (June 21 - July 21)**  
Do not think that because someone else is right you are automatically wrong. Nor should you always try to have the last word. Avoid allowing yourself to be misled. Be reliable.
- Leo (July 22 - Aug 21)**  
You will be able to do something you have long wished to do. You should listen more closely to what others are saying. Do not allow yourself to be distracted. Be loyal.
- Virgo (Aug 22 - Sept 21)**  
The prospects are good and you will be more able to make rapid progress. You should not allow yourself to be outsmarted. You will be able to make a closer approach to the truth. Be sincere.
- Libra (Sept 22 - Oct 22)**  
There are liable to be some tensions and you should do your best not to take things too personally. Something you had hoped would happen will not, at least not quite as you would have liked. Take far better care of your health. Be on time.
- Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21)**  
You will have some good ideas, but they will not all be practical. You should concentrate your energies on the job in hand. Nor should you look too much over your shoulder. Be prompt.
- Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)**  
You will need all your presence of mind and to have your wits about you. You will be able to do something of importance for your future.
- Capricorn Dec 22 - Jan 19**  
You should avoid indulging in daydreams just now. You must make sure you do not jump to conclusions. You should not take any risks with your health — keep out of the way of infection so far as you can. Be sensible.
- Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 18)**  
At first you will have some doubts, but you will quickly overcome them. Others will be more inclined to cooperate with you. You should not hesitate to give credit where it is due. Be less pompous.
- Pisces (Feb 19 - March 19)**  
You will be able to do something to make amends. A project on which you are engaged will make good progress, but will also require your full attention.



Actor prefers to be thought of as a sophisticated boffin

## Howard Lewis admits he is a slob



Howard Lewis

HOWARD LEWIS admits he is a slob — just like Elmo, the artless barman he plays in the TV sitcom *Brush Strokes*.

But the actor who is usually seen as idiot, says he would rather be thought of as a sophisticated boffin.

Sandy-haired Howard — currently playing pudgy Rabies in another series, *Maid Marian and Her Merry Men* — lounged back in his chair and told me: "The best thing about my job is that often I don't have to get up in the mornings. I prefer to stay in bed or play on my computer."

The 48-year-old actor admitted: "Most of the time I don't mind playing dumb historical peasants. I wouldn't want to play Hamlet — he's just a screwed up kid."

"But sometimes acting as idiot all the time bothers me. I would rather be thought of as a savvy, sophisticated intellectual."

Affable Howard, who left his computer programming job 10 years ago to become an actor, has endeared himself to millions the world over as Elmo the barman.

"Elmo is an idiot but I don't think he's an offensive idiot," he said. "At first, when I read the script, it bothered me that he was sexist. But you can see after a while that he is always trying to chat women up and is patently dreadful at it. They always cut him to

pieces."

Howard, who lives on his own in Mitcham, Surrey, admits that, unlike Elmo, he has a laid-back approach to most things in life.

"I never thought I'd be an actor. I just drifted into it because a lot of my friends were actors. The crunch with my job came when I was promoted to a managerial position in the computer company and I had to sack someone. She was a perfectly good worker and had tried really hard but my boss told me I had to do it."

"I was so apologetic that it ended with her trying to cheer me up."

He believes that, when he started acting, everything fell into place really easily. "I didn't seem to put any effort into it at all," he said.

"My advice to a young person thinking of an acting career would be this: 'Get a proper job, you lazy slob!'"

Fans of *Brush Strokes* will be glad to hear that a new series is planned for the New Year. In the meantime, Howard is acting the idiot again in a new children's TV drama written by Tony Robinson (Baldric of Blackadder fame). Howard plays on of *Maid Marian's Merry Men*, the glib and bemused Rabies, with Robinson himself as the Sheriff of Nottingham.

It is a dramatic contrast to one of Howard's first roles — in a political play. He told me: "It was about Chile, set in Chile, by a Chilean writer and I had to play a Chilean peasant. The only problem was that in the Western world, we don't know much about being a peasant, particularly a Chilean one."

But his natural sense of humour and his love of playing the fool soon surfaced in programmes including *The Two Ronnies*, *Open All Hours* and *Blackadder* with top comedian Rowan Atkinson.

Biting into a canopie as we chatted at a London theatre, Howard told me: "The only good thing about my part in *Blackadder* was that I had to die in my soup."

On the subject of acting, he said: "You have to have a commitment to it — it is not all good fun. There is a lot of hanging about."

"People tend to think it is all about being a star. But stars don't set out to be stars. Most of them are just people who are quite good at their jobs and have arrived at stardom without really knowing it."

Howard, who went straight into the theatre without attending drama school, loves nothing better in his spare time than experimenting with his computer — apart from the occasional lie-in, of course.

"I just love computers. I am completely addicted to them. Mine plays a good game of Scrabble and I

also use it for writing. Often I feel totally out of reality when I'm sitting at my computer — hours pass like minutes."

"When most actors are out of work, they look at the wall and go mad."

"But I don't like spending too much time on the computer. I think the whole point of life is to interact with human beings."

Bird-brained Elmo would never have the intelligence to be a computer buff. And blundering Rabies would find it difficult enough to distinguish between a hedgehog and a lavatory brush, let alone to play Scrabble on a computer.

Yet Howard admitted: "I really enjoyed playing Rabies and we had a fantastic time filming the series. When I watched it afterwards, it was like looking at holiday snaps."

"We had brilliant weather, too. But as I was dressed in a huge woollen outfit and sometimes wigs, I would have preferred a bit of vile, cold weather."

Howard has not always played hapless idiots. Once he starred in an East End version of *Romeo and Juliet* — but he did not play the dashing lover. He admits he is hardly a Romeo — and would not want to be.

Howard Lewis may occasionally hanker after suave sophisticated but not for long.

## Princely help helps a lot

Charles' youth business trust offers grant

ON PRINCE CHARLES' mantle-piece stands a clock. But this is no ordinary timepiece it is made of hundreds of matches and was presented to him by the former burglar who hand-crafted it.

Ex-prisoner Dean Benson, 26, started making matchstick models 6 1/2 years ago when he was serving time for burglary.

Now he is in business, courtesy of a Prince's Youth Business Trust grant. His models include anything from clocks, windmills, bikes and chess pieces to one of St Paul's Cathedral.

Dean, based in Aston, Birmingham, has just got himself an office and is hoping to build up his business. Now famed matchmakers Bryant and May are going to buy the copyright of his ideas.

Dean told me: "No-one else would finance me but the Prince's Youth Business Trust money is a real incentive."

A 25-year-old former insurance underwriter is busy making dragon masks and dressing up in medieval costumes. He, too, set himself up in business with a Prince's Youth Business Trust grant of £750 and a loan of £2,000, which he has already paid back.

Mark Roberts told me: "It's good fun. I really set it up for my friends. People call it escapism but it is an experience."

He was inspired by his hobby of playing *Dungeons and Dragons*, the fantasy role-playing game that has caught on with thousands of Britons.

The people who take part in the games he organises range from students to bankers. A weekend acting out medieval fantasies will cost £40 to non-members. Mark said: "Anyone who wants to forget about their problems can play, so long as they have a bit of imagination."

Wading around in the woods in doublet and chain mail is a far cry from what Julie McInley gets up to with her grant money.

For Julie, 23, had a gut feeling to get into business — as a belly dancer!

She thought the Trust would think her request for a grant was a joke and was surprised to receive £1,000 a few months ago.

She has bought two Arabian-style costumes — which can cost up to £300 each — and plans to buy a car to get her to engagements.

Julie, who performs under the name Geila, had been unemployed for three years. She heard about the Trust when she visited the job centre near her London home.

Now she dances the night away in upmarket clubs in the West End, as well as at private parties.

"It's a very good dance for your figure," she told me. "But I knew I could make a living from it. The summer was very busy and Christmas will be, too."

Julie performs four or five times a week and, as well as her fee, she can pick up about £1,000 in tips — a princely sum.

Less glamorous but still lucrative is the stick insect industry. Dorothy Floyd, 25, had been keeping the creatures for four years when she noticed there was a demand for them from schools.

She received a Trust grant in 1987 and now breeds thousands of the creepy-crawlies. She sells a package of her book, *How To Keep Stick Insects*, plus a special cage and 16 insects of different varieties for £50.

Dorothy told me: "They are very interesting to observe. You can watch them climbing out of their skins. You can mix different sorts together to make an attractive collection."



Prince Charles

They are very easy to keep."

The grant and the loan will allow Dorothy to buy a van. She supplies insects to schools, pet shops and the public, all over the country.

Animals are close to the heart of Sarah Partridge, too. She was surprised to get her grant from the Trust to run a horse-drawn carriage service.

She hires out ponies and a carriage for weddings and parties, as well as giving pony rides at a stately home in Newport, Wales.

Sarah, 24, received her grant in 1983. In the beginning, she had to borrow a horse but she now owns several ponies and two vehicles.

She told me: "Business is ticking over nicely, thank you. I am booked every Saturday for months. The lowest fee is £150. It is a seasonal business. I was surprised to get the grant, even though I felt confident. No-one was going to stop me."

Young Lee Wass started *Lyer Cleaning Company* by accident. Unemployed, he couldn't afford to go out on a Friday night. So when a woman asked him to clean the windows of her house, he agreed. He earned himself a tidy £30.

When he told his mother, she suggested the Prince's Youth Business Trust. Lee told me: "I wasn't surprised when I got it because I did a lot of research and put a good plan together. Business is coming on slowly but surely. It's already profitable." Now he is hoping to employ people and to expand into office cleaning.

David and Mary Shaw desperately wanted to set themselves up in business with a transport cafe in a down-at-heel part of London.

Mary, 23, had always been in the catering profession and husband David, 27, was an unemployed milkman.

The couple wrote off to apply for a grant. They attended interviews and submitted a business plan. They received their grant in December 1988, and finally, opened their cafe last August. They have the services of a business adviser for their first year.

Mary told me: "It's been better than we thought it would be. The first year is always up and down but it's been brilliant we're always busy."

Now the Shaws are hoping a very important visitor will drop in for a cuppa and bacon butty at their 32-seat cafe, Prince Charles, the man who made it all possible.

The sweet smell of success goes hand in hand with the sweet smell of croissants and apple tarts for Wayne Harrison and Simon Ledger — or so they hope. The lads have worked their way through the catering jungle but have decided to set up their own patisserie.

Simon told me: "We were fed up working for other people and we had heard that the Prince's Youth Business Trust were good at providing finance for young people."

## Scofield plays deaf outcast in new movie

## A rare screen appearance

THE man once tipped as a natural successor to Laurence Olivier makes a rare screen appearance in a new film about man's abuse of the natural world.

Paul Scofield, most famous for his portrayal of Sir Thomas More in *A Man For All Seasons*, stars opposite leading British stage and screen actress Helen Mirren in *When The Whales Came*.

In the film, set in 1914 on the island of Bryher in the Scilly Isles, Scofield plays a deaf outcast who is befriended by two children. Known only as the Birdman, he is feared by villagers who think he is a magician.

As a boy, the Birdman lived on the neighbouring island of Samson which was devastated by the curse after the inhabitants preyed on a school of whales that ran aground there.

Now an old man, the Birdman teaches the two children to appreciate the beauty of the natural world.

And when the whales come to Bryher, only the old man and the children can avert the curse and prevent a repetition of the tragedy that destroyed the Birdman's home more than 70 years earlier.

The film is inspired by a legend of the Scilly Isles and was filmed entirely on location on the Isle of Bryher.

The creatures in the story — the little-known tusked whales, narwhals — look real on screen but were in fact created by the special-effects team.

Each whale is 14ft long with 6ft tusks and took months to bring to life.

For the part of nine-year-old Gracie — one

of the children who befriend the Birdman — the film's makers searched through all the stage schools in the UK. They had never thought of looking on Bryher itself.

When they were casting for crowd extras, little Helen Pearce was among the islanders who turned up. Immediately she was singled out by director Clive Rees and auditioned for the role of Gracie.

And Helen, who was always lived on the tiny island of Bryher and has had no acting experience, won the role of Helen Mirren's daughter.

She says now: "I live acting. It's really god fun. When I grow up, I'm going to apply to the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art where my uncle teaches."

Most actors avoid working with children

The Birdman (Paul Scofield) is befriended by two children in *When The Whales Came*.

and animals but Helen Mirren has no such reservations. She says: "I've always liked working with children. It's not a problem at all. They are anarchic in the best way, which I like. I think they have a very healthy attitude to the work because it's not life or death for them."

"I enjoy learning from them. Children and animals are very good teachers."

Generally recognised as one of the greatest actors of this century, Paul Scofield has been accused of making too few screen appearances. He works only when the role offered is right.

He says: "I wanted to play the Birdman as soon as I read the script. I thought it was a very touching story and the Birdman is a very sympathetic character."

"I also thought it would be interesting to play a character whose only relationships are with children — because children have a wonderful innocence and honesty. And I wanted to visit the Scilly Isles because I had heard how beautiful they are."

The story may be set in 1914 but producer Geoffrey Wansell believes its theme is extremely important to life today. He says: *When The Whales Came* is based on a legend and we were attracted by what it has to say about nature — that we must treat it with some reverence — and what it has to say about outcasts, whom we tend to treat as mad instead of seeing the potential of wisdom in their unconventional views.

"We would do well to take both points seriously."

David Hasselhoff found fame in *'Knight Rider'* with his trusty car Kit.

Actor visits orphanages, hospitals world over

## Knight Rider on mercy mission

SINCE hulky David Hasselhoff gave up talking to his *Knight Rider* wonder car, he has started singing pop songs. And their sales have hit a golden note.

And, as 28-year-old David sings his way round the world with his faithful car Kit, he makes every overseas trip a mission of mercy.

For 6ft, 4in, blue-eyed David, to be seen in Britain as the star of a TV lifeguard series called *Baywatch* (L.W.T. Jan 6), spends every spare minute bringing joy to sick or lonely children.

He, and motor-racing ace Mario Andretti have formed the *Race for Life Foundation*, so that chronically ill youngsters can have fun outings to race meetings. And David visits hospitals and orphanages all over the world.

David, whose *Knight Rider* series is still shown in more than 60 countries, told me: "Last weekend, for example, we brought 25 children into the Atlanta 500 in Georgia."

"We had a big party for them, with a band, pony rides and all sorts of games. The next day, we took them to the races to see the cars qualify and to meet the racing drivers."

"I find this work extremely rewarding. These kids have more guts than anybody I've ever met. And I am able to have an opportunity to be on this earth to accomplish something besides music, TV and me, me, me, me."

David switched to pop when he found himself out of work when the *Knight Rider* series came to a sudden halt because of "a row between the studio and the network over money." He made records for Europe and the fans went wild.

One disc, *Looking For Freedom*, has achieved platinum sales. The record, soon to be released in Britain under the title *Lonely Is The Night*, was No. 1 in West Germany for nine weeks. And another record, *Flying On The Wings Of Tenderness*, has gone gold.

David's up-beat numbers, sung in a Glen Campbell-like baritone, have climbed the charts everywhere from Spain, Italy

and Belgium to Finland. And his new career has taken him and his faithful Kit to 33 countries in the last four years.

And in no less than 15 of these, David has found time to visit children in hospitals and orphanages. They all enjoyed moments of bliss chatting with the star of *Knight Rider*. One of the visits, to a Greek orphanage, was so harrowing that David's mother was emotionally devastated.

He told me, as he sat in his trailer on the *Baywatch* set in Hollywood: "My mother was just blown away. She said, 'Don't bring me here anymore. I can't handle this...'"

"She wanted to take all those kids home with her. For their expressions seemed to plead, 'Don't leave us here!'"

David first sang professionally at the age of seven in a musical version of the children's story, *Peter Pan*. Now he will go on an international singing tour next March. He explained: "First, before people go into the show, there will be a festival outside for the kids... complete with Kit the talking car."

"After that, they will go in to hear the rock 'n' roll. And this will be the first family rock show ever. I shall sing for everyone, from grandma to the kids."

For, whether he is singing or acting, children are never far from David's thoughts. His mission to help them began when he was playing the daredevil adventurer Michael Knight in the *Knight Rider* series.

David told me: "There was an incident when I was making *Knight Rider* that opened up everything and got me involved in all this. There is an organisation called the *Starlight Foundation* that grants wishes for chronically and terminally ill children."

"They sent a little boy to the *Knight Rider* set because his wish was to meet me. I gave him a *Knight Rider* hat and jacket. After the boy's visit, I stayed in constant communication with him and his family."

"Six months later, sadly, this little boy died. He had previously chosen to be buried in his *Knight*

*Rider* coat. This is what began it all for me."

"In just four years on *Knight Rider*, I saw 500 kids. Quite a few of these have since died. And I took the whole thing one step further when I started motor racing."

"Mario Andretti and I formed *Race For Life*. We bring children to the race tracks to meet Mario, Michael Andretti and Paul Newman. Sometimes they will, for example, spend a day at the Indy 500 in Indianapolis."

"Over five years, we have brought 500 kids to the Indy. Last year alone there were 100 of them. Also, all the money raised by races and other events in the name of our charity goes to children through *Starlight*, the *Make A Wish Foundation* and the *National Burn Foundation* for Children."

David moved to the make-up trailer, settled into a seat, and went on: "Somebody once said, 'When you are blessed, it is your moral obligation to pass that on to somebody else. That is also, basically, what my parents taught me.'"

"So, when I started travelling the world in my new singing career, I said, 'Hey! Wouldn't it be fun to go to a hospital in, say, Portugal? To see the kids' faces? So I did, and the kids were so excited.'"

"I can tell you, I've ended up in some bad hospitals. For example, it was awful in Puerto Rico. The staff were living in the air-conditioning and the kids were in a humid, piece-of-junk hospital. But the cheerful thing was that they all knew who I was."

"Just as they do in Portugal. And France. In Greece, the doctor at a hospital said, 'You are the first celebrity ever to come and see the kids.' I regard all this as both an educational and moral experience."

"Going into these hospitals round the world was an incredible experience for the children. And for me. And I have always remembered their unspoken message... 'Clean up your act and quit complaining.'"

"Look at us. Look at the

spirit of life we have."

"The last hospital I visited was in Italy. It was difficult to convince anybody to take me there. So I ended up by just asking the name of a hospital where there were kids and then just simply turning up there."

"When I arrived, the conversation went something like this... 'You are Supercar...?'"

"Yes, I want to see the kids."

"Why?"

"Take me to your children's ward and I'll show you."

"And show him I did. When I went into the ward, the power of death was all around and everyone was sad. When I left, they were happy and yelling, hanging all round me and holding my hand."

The make-up man stepped back patiently to wait for the sudden grin to fade from David's tanned face. He went on: "It was great. The same thing happened everywhere. When we first went into orphanages, the atmosphere was kind of heavy. But they all knew *Knight Rider*."

"I found the orphanages even sadder than the hospitals. You could see many of these children were just abandoned. They were clinging to you for love."

But, in spite of these sad moments, life is sweet for David at the moment. His album is being released in Britain, France, Spain, Italy, Germany, Switzerland, Austria, Belgium, Scandinavia and Holland.

It looks more than likely that the studio bosses will order another nine more episodes of *Baywatch*. And David's private life has at last come up roses.

He told me: "I have been divorced. But, right now, I am going through a period where I am very happy. I have somebody in my life who wants to share it, to run with me and to support me."

"This girl is actually my best friend. Something I lacked the last time around. Her name is Pamela Bach and she's an actress."

Truly, David Hasselhoff has been blessed. And he is making sure that his success goes to his heart rather than his head.

EX-1150



# ARAB TIMES Classifieds

# MARKET PLACE

## LOST

GERMAN Shepherd, big, black-brown dog. Valuable prize for finder. Tele. 5320348.  
(AT2-50645-3)

## ACCOMMODATION

### For Rent

SALWA, villa, ground floor with mulhaq (the outside building) and garage for best offer. Suitable for Europeans. Tele. Fajr, 2436048, mornings; 2540050, evenings.  
(AT3-50641-3)

KUWAIT City, Sharq, behind the Firdous Cinema, House No 177, beside the Teachers Training Institute. Mulhaq, Tele. Eilat Mohamed Musa 2432169.  
(AT2-50632-3)

SALWA, deluxe, ground floor flat, CAC, with swimming pool, cupboards, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, servant's room, and a large hall. Rent KD450, with water and electricity. Tele. 5324848.  
(AT2-50635-3)

## Available

SALMIYA, near the fire station. One separate room with water and electricity for a family or 2 working girls, to share with a family. Rent KD65. Tele. Tariq, 2403336, 2432046 Ext 243, from 8 am - 2 pm.  
(AT2-50626-3)

JULEEB Al Shiyokh, near the Salim Stores. Accommodation in a flat for an Indian bachelor to share with another. Tele. Mrs PO, 4319570.  
(AT3-50648-3)

FARWANIYA, Area 2, Street 79, House No. 6629. Required one working lady to share with another lady in an apartment. Tele. Abdul Aziz or Shaheda, 4761942, Res., 4740801, Off. 8 am - 1 pm & 4.30 - 7.30 pm.  
(AT3-50642-2)

Rumathiya, Amman Street, opp. Al Rashid Hospital. One room for an Indian bachelor to share with an Indian family. Tele. Mr Koshi, 5632426 after 2.00 pm.  
(AT1-50624-3)

KUWAIT City, behind the Meridien Hotel, deluxe room, fully furnished for a Westerner or Filipino only. Rent KD125. Tele. 2407525 and leave message on auto answering machine.  
(AT3-50496-3)

## FOR SALE

### Miscellaneous

TWO National ACs and a 'Kids R Us' baby cot. Tele. 2463475 from 5-8 pm.  
(AT2-50634-3)

SOFA set (2), central table wooden and glass, TV stand, baby cot, cooker (old). Mishref, Area 4, Street No. 5, House 26A. Tele. 5391086.  
(AT3-50639-3)

ROWLAND speaker amplifier, 100 watts, 15" woofer + mid-tweeter, equaliser, 4 separate input jacks, 2 separate volume, 6 months old. Original price KD300, selling price KD185. Tele. Khaled, 2525595.  
(AT3-50652-3)

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## FOOTBALL

## Robson's Cup hopes receive a jolt

LONDON, Dec 10, (Reuters): Gary Lineker and Peter Beardsley reminded Bobby Robson that they can still score yesterday but the England manager had little else to cheer about.

While Beardsley's 64th minute goal saved Liverpool from sinking to their first home defeat against Aston Villa in 12 years, it was overshadowed by the sight of his England and club team-mate John Barnes leaving the field on a stretcher.

A key component in the front-line of Robson's World Cup plans, Barnes pulled up short and collapsed in the 36th minute after a lovely twisting run into the Villa penalty area.

Liverpool manager Kenny Dalglish said Barnes had suffered the recurrence of a hamstring injury and would miss England's friendly against Yugoslavia at Wembley on Wednesday.

For Robson the news only added to the gloom of hearing that the much-fancied and feared Netherlands were drawn in the same group as England in next year's World Cup finals.

While Beardsley and Lineker, who have both failed to match up to expectations in recent matches, are important players in the squad, Barnes has a sparkle that few others possess.

And although he has rarely given the sort of performances at international level that he gives at Liverpool, his play against Italy last month showed glimpses of his brilliance.

To add to the despondency, England reserve goalkeeper Dave Beasant let in another four goals as Chelsea crashed to 4-2 to Queens' Park Rangers. Last week, he let in five against Wimbledon.

The result saw Chelsea fall from fourth place in the League to sixth, but at least gave Robson's England number two Don Howe his second win in two games as QPR coach.

First Villa drew 1-1 with Liverpool after taking an early lead and looking set to break clear at the top of the League for the first time since they won the championship in 1981.

Liverpool, Arsenal and Villa had all been level on 30 points before yesterday, with champions Arsenal seemingly bogged down at Coventry where they had not won in four years.

In the event, Arsenal plucked a last-minute winner out of the sky to push both rivals down the table. Paul Merson was the scorer with an opportunist lob from the right wing.

Lineker, top scorer at the 1986 World Cup finals in Mexico, hit home his 10th goal of the season as Tottenham beat his old club Everton 2-1 and said he was undaunted by the draw.

"I'm just interested in being part of it all and part of the side and I hope that things will go well for us," he said.

Howard Kendall, his former manager at Everton, is another man anxiously hoping that things go well as his new club Manchester City again failed to notch up their first away win of the season.

He watched bottom-of-the-League City — his employers from Monday — take an early lead at Southampton and then throw three points away by losing 2-1.

City rivals Manchester United fared equally badly, forging ahead in the ninth minute and then losing by a similar margin to Crystal Palace, managed by former United player Steve Coppell.

United manager Alex Ferguson left Welsh international Mark Hughes on the bench for the match in a bid to break a two-match drought of goals but let to chants of "Fergie out".

In Scotland, Rangers beat Motherwell 3-0. Ally McCoist's goal in 82nd minute made him the top scorer in Scottish Premier history with 128 goals.

Aberdeen beat Dundee United 2-0 and head Rangers on goal difference at the top. Both have 23 points, with Celtic third, three points behind.

## Organisers not worried over Dutch-English clash

## Teams happy with World Cup draw

ROME, Dec 10, (Reuters): Following are reactions to the draw for next year's World Cup soccer finals.

Graham Kelly, chief executive of the English Football Association on England's tie against Netherlands in Cagliari:

"We're confident that security will be very tight in Sardinia. The points of entry will be very tightly controlled and we'll have a lot of genuine fans going. We'll just keep our fingers crossed that by dint of hard work we will get the results we want on and off the soccer field."

Hermann Neuberger, president of the West German Soccer Federation, on West Germany's group and the draw in general:

"I think we can be satisfied with the draw. It could have been far worse. We're capable of getting through. I'm told Yugoslavia have a very strong team but three teams can go through. Italy, the hosts, got the easiest group."

Netherlands trainer Thijs Libregts: "Thank God we aren't playing West Germany again. Our group is virtually a repeat of the last European championship. I consider that a good omen."

England manager Bobby Robson: "I'm not disappointed but I'm amazed at the coincidence. It's a good opportunity for us to get something back from the teams we played in West Germany and a great chance for the players."

England lost all three group games at year's European championship, including their matches with the Netherlands and Ireland.

Scottish manager Andy Roxburgh said of his team's draw with Brazil, Sweden and Costa Rica: "It's glamorous. It always is when you're in a group with Brazil but obviously it's a difficult group."

Roxburgh immediately left Rome by private jet to fly to Genoa where his side play two of their three group matches.

Yugoslav trainer Ivan Osim said: "We were lucky. West Germany is the toughest opponent because the games are being played in northern Italy where many German fans can be expected."

"Colombia and the United Arab Emirates should not be underestimated."

Mario Zagalo, trainer of the 1970 World Cup and current coach of the United Arab Emirates, said: "West Germany has practically qualified for the next round already with this draw. It was a big surprise for us to qualify for Italy and we'll be



Fifa president Joao Havelange (right) hands the World Cup trophy to one of the organisers. (Reuters wirephoto)

coming mainly to learn and gain experience."

Spain's trainer Luis Suarez was less happy. "I'm not very pleased with the draw because our group is very tough," he said. "But I think we have a real chance of getting through."

He fears Uruguay the most. "It is a good team and it will be Spain's first game in the World Cup."

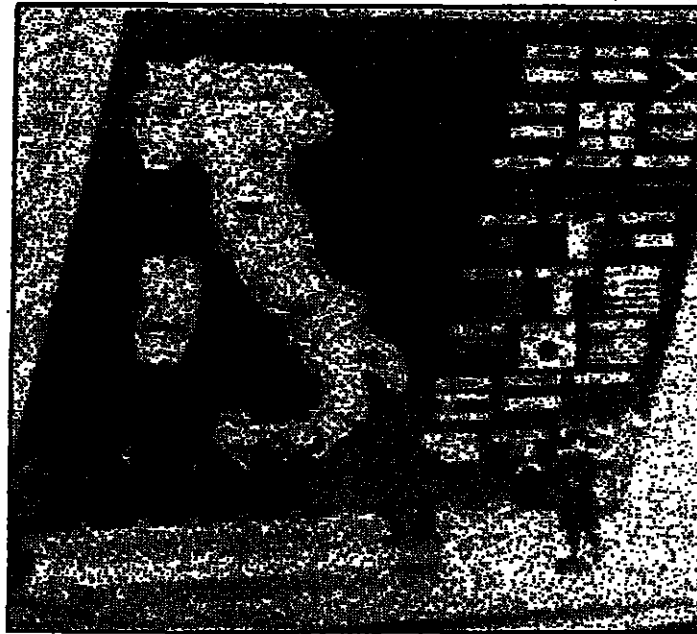
"Belgium is a sure team, maybe not brilliant, but they will be hard to beat."

Swedish trainer Olle Nordin said: "I'm an optimist. I'm not afraid of Scotland — nor of Brazil. We know them very well, they suit us fine."

Italy manager Azeglio Vicini, said of the host's draw against Austria, Czechoslovakia and the United States: "I don't think you

can say we're satisfied but it could have been much worse. We shouldn't undervalue our two

European opponents. Czechoslovakia have always been a difficult side for us.



World soccer stars and Fifa authorities stand in front of a giant map of Italy during the draw. (Reuters wirephoto)



Top soccer stars (left to right): Pele, Bobby Moore, Ruben Sosa, Bruno Conti and Karl-Heinz Rummenigge during the draw. (Reuters wirephoto)

## Socrates criticises new Brazil

ROME, Dec 10, (Reuters): Brazil have lost touch with their soccer traditions and may even lose the loyalty of their colourful World Cup fans, former star Socrates has warned.

Socrates, a leading player in the Brazilian teams at the 1982 and 1986 finals, believes current coach Sebastiao Lazaroni's European-style tactics will prevent the familiar Brazilian skills from blossoming fully in Italy next June.

"There is not enough pure fantasy in the team. There has been a change in style and the players have learned a lot of new tactics from playing abroad," Socrates said after yesterday's draw for next year's World Cup finals.

"I do not like it much myself and I am sure most Brazilians will feel the same. Our football is about freedom and imagination within a tactical framework but this new system is too rigid."

For years, Brazil have been synonymous with "the beautiful game," and their samba skills have lit up virtually all the World Cup tournaments since their first triumph in Sweden in 1958.

Twice in the past, in West Germany in 1974 and in Argentina in 1978, the Brazilians attempted to switch to more defensive tactics and both tournaments ended with their reputation tarnished.

"It was the re-emergence of their more familiar, imaginative, attacking style and under veteran coach Tele Santana in Spain in 1982, when Socrates and Zico starred, which brought back their prestige."

"For me, that Brazilian team in 1982 was the best I have played in and also produced the best matches," said Socrates. "The game with Italy, when we lost 3-2, was the best of my career and will always be remembered by everyone who was there."

"It was a fantasy game for us all and we shall never forget it. That is how I feel Brazil should be seen."

"Football is above all a show so, from that point of view, when you have a spectacular match, it is fine."

"But at the same time it is important also to be respectful of style and quality and from this point of view I think I am not alone in not

liking the latest change of style in Brazilian football."

Socrates said he believed Brazil had the players to do well again in the finals. They were drawn yesterday to meet Sweden, Costa Rica and Scotland in Group C in Turin.

"We have a squad which is good enough perhaps to even win the tournament but that will be very difficult even though it is such a satisfactory first group for Brazil."

"I have to admit though that I think the winners are more likely to come from Italy, Argentina, the Netherlands, England or West Germany."

In Socrates' view, Brazil's fortunes will depend heavily on how much freedom their talented forward players like Bebeto, Romario, Geovani and Careca are allowed.

"Bebeto will be the star player possibly of the tournament if he has the chance," said Socrates. "He is very talented and very imaginative. But he may not be allowed to play with the fantasy he has in his feet in the present team and tactics."

## Senior takes 3rd straight title

MELBOURNE, Dec 10, (Reuters): Queenslander Peter Senior notched his third Australian major in four weeks today and took his biggest ever pay cheque, winning Australia's richest golf tournament, the \$750,000 Australian Classic.

Senior won by five shots from world number one Greg Norman who finished at seven under par. Norman shot the best round of the day with a 67. Senior carded 65-72-70-69 to finish with a 72 hole 276.

Senior said he hoped the Midas touch that has helped him win the Australian PGA, last week's Australian Open and today's event continues.

"I've had a terrific four to five weeks and I hope it keeps going," Senior said.

"I had the feeling everyone was behind me this week and it's made my job a lot easier."

Norman said Senior's brilliant form should launch him into world prominence and help him gain a ticket on the American circuit.

"If he can shoot those scores around here then he can shoot any score on the golf courses in America because they're nowhere near as tough," Norman said.

Britain's Howard Clark finished third with six under after carding a lone under 71 today, while New Zealander Frank Nobilo, Britain's Nick Faldo and Victorian veteran Bob Shearer all tied for fourth at five under.

In West Palm Beach, Fla., Mike Hulbert and Bob Tway combined for a 64 yesterday for a three-day total of 28-under-par 188 to lead the \$600,000 Team Championship at Palm Beach Polo and Country Club by two shots.

Hulbert and Tway, who have excelled in this event in recent years, continued their success despite strong gusty winds and an occasional driving rain yesterday.

Alone in second place was the team of Rick Fehr and Kent Kluba after a 66.

And in Kaunapali, Hawaii, Don Bies won the Kaunapali classic Seniors tour event when heavy rains yesterday forced the cancellation of the final 18 holes of play.

Bies won the event, the last tournament of the seniors tour this year, for the second straight year as he finished with a 12-under-par total of 132. He won \$45,000.

## China grabs first gold

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia, Dec 10, (AP): China grabbed its first gold medal today in the inaugural Asian Youth and Cadet Fencing Championships at the Kuala Lumpur Badminton Stadium.

China, who arrived here with six fencers two days ago and were competing in only a few selected events, won the men's under-20 epee when Yang Wenyi outlasted Indonesia's Henry Lenzum 10-2, the national news agency Bernama reported.

En route to the finals, the Chinese demolished Lim Kam Fai of Hong Kong 10-5.

The third placing was an all-Japanese affair when Norikazu Tanabe edged Takaaki Nagashima of Japan 12-11 for the bronze medal.

## Liverpool face Cup defence at Swansea

## United meet Forest

LONDON, Dec 10, (Reuters): Liverpool open their defence of the English Football Association (FA) Cup with a trip to Third Division Swansea on January 6.

Kenny Dalglish's team, who beat Everton 3-2 in last season's final, were drawn last night to face the Welsh club, 11th in their 24-team division.

Swansea are the only English League team to have experienced European competition this season, losing 6-5 on aggregate to Greek side Panathinaikos in the first round of the Cup Winners' Cup.

League champions Arsenal visit Stoke where they will confront their former England player Alan Ball, now manager of the club who are bottom of the Second Division.

The highlight of several ties between First Division teams is Nottingham Forest, beaten semifinalists in the last two seasons, at home to Manchester United.

Tottenham have a home tie against Division One rivals Southampton and the London club's England striker Gary Lineker, who was at the televised draw, said: "They are really on form and it will be a hard game for us. But it is the first time Spurs have had a home draw for ages."

Last season Tottenham went out to Second Division Bradford away and in 1987-88 they lost 3-1 Third Division Port Vale.

Draw for the third round of the English Football Association (FA) Cup on January 6.

Stoke v Arsenal; Reading v Welling v Sunderland; Watford v Wigan; Brighton v Luton; Bristol City v Swindon; Maidstone v Exeter v Norwich; Sheffield United v Bournemouth; Port Vale v Derby; Cambridge United v Darlington; Leeds v Ipswich; Torquay v West Ham; Hull v Newcastle; Plymouth v Oxford United; West Bromwich Albion v Wimbledon; Blackburn v Aston Villa; Manchester City v Millwall; Cardiff or Gloucester City v Queen's Park Rangers; Wolverhampton v Sheffield Wednesday; Nottingham Forest v Manchester United; Birmingham v Oldham Athletic; Huddersfield v Grimsby; Chelsea v Crewe Alexandra or Bishop Auckland; Northampton or Aylesbury v Coventry; Leicester v Barnsley; Hereford v Walsall; Middlesbrough v Everton; Swansea v Liverpool; Tottenham v Southampton; Rochdale v Whitley Bay; Charlton v Bradford City; Crystal Palace v Portsmouth; Blackpool v Scunthorpe or Burnley.



The victorious Rajasthan squad.

## Delhi Stars outclass Rajasthan

DELHI STARS Cricket Club (DSCC) beat Rajasthan Youths Cricket Club (RYCC) by a huge margin of 84 runs in a friendly match played on Thursday at the Salimkhani Grounds.

The RYCC skipper, winning the toss, opted to field. DSCC opened their innings through skipper Ahmed Kapdi and Manish Sharma and took the score to 53 runs before Ahmed Kapdi was adjudged lbw to Siddhart for 28 runs.

Bajrang joined Manish and put on 20 runs before Bajrang was bowled by A. Kader for 15 runs. Two runs later, Manish was bowled by Rhudolf for 27 runs. Sanjeev scored 38 runs Sanjay Kalsi made 42 and Shabbir Hussain was the top scorer with an unbeaten 51 containing three sixes and five fours.

The others to reach double figures were Suhail Shaikh (12) and Fouad Khan (23 n.o.) as DSCC piled up a massive total of 238 for 6 in their allotted 30 overs.

For RYCC Siddhart, A. Kader and Rhudolf each took two wickets.

In reply RYCC, chasing a run rate of 7.96 per over, opened their innings through Hoozeefa and Rhudolf and put on 78 runs in 16 overs before Hoozeefa was run out for 49 runs.

A Kader and Rhudolf took the score to 145 in the 23rd over before both of them lost their wickets in the space of two balls, both of them being bowled by Ahmed Kapdi. Rhudolf made 61 runs with the help of seven fours and A. Kader made 32 with the help of five fours.

The only other batsman to reach the double figures was Syed Bilgrami (11). No other batsman showed any resistance to the hostile bowling of Ahmed Kapdi who captured five wickets for 17 runs off six overs and RYCC were bundled out for 154 runs in the 29th over.

The other wickets to fall were shared by Manish (2), Bajrang and Sanjay Kalsi one wicket each. Mukesh fielded very well to hold two superb catches in the cover positions.

## Athletics score first Little League win

THE Athletics scored their first victory while Cardinals, Giants, Red Sox and White Sox were involved in ties during the Kuwait Little League action on Friday.

The Athletics were doing some great hitting. Abdul Wahab with his home run and triple earned 4 runs for his team. Team-mate Yousef Al Ghanim also had a home run and a triple. Yousef earned 6 RBIs. Other Athletic hitters were Hala Khalaf with a double and Ahmed Najah with a double and 2 RBIs.

The Royals never let up. Hitters C. Khan with two doubles and 4 RBIs, Nabeel Alexander with a double and 1 RBI, and Farrah Hawana with a double and 2 RBIs, did their best, but the Athletics were just too strong. Final score Royals 13,



An action shot of an earlier game.

Athletics 21.

The undefeated Giants tied with the Cardinals in a great baseball game. Both teams had some fantastic plays.

The Cardinals started off strong with Talal Navarro's home run in the first inning

bringing in 4 runs. Defensively first baseman Hisham Navarro had two unassisted plays at first base and he worked well with pitcher Paul Colbourne. Paul had his share of stride outs and only walked a few. The Giants are known for

their good hitting and fine fielding. Shigeo Mano hit a double as did Koichi Hozumi. Koichi earned 1 RBI. Both teams gave their fans some real exciting moments, but as time ran out the score stood Giants 9, Cardinals 9.

The Tigers looked good as they faced off against the Braves. Joshua Dimeler had two doubles earning 2 RBIs, Ahmed Al Qallaf had a double and earned 3 RBIs for the day and Rame Hamman had a double and earned 1 RBI. Total team score 12.

The Braves started off slow but picked up power as the innings ticked by. Ghada Afanil had a nice double, Skylor Moss had a double and a triple earning 4 RBIs and Ahmed Afani had a double. The powerful Braves scored 12

runs in the last inning beating the Tigers 17-12.

The Mets were looking good as they faced the Mariners.

Home-run hitters: Abed Al Khatib — Pirates; Ridha Behbehani (2) — Astros; Talal Navarro — Cardinals; Ali Al Qallaf — Blue Jays; Yousef Al Ghanim — Athletics; Abdul Wahab — Athletics.

## Results

T-Ball	
Athletics	21 Royals 12
Braves	17 Tigers 13
Cubs	28 Twins 10
Minors	
Astros	10 Blue Jays 3
Mets	8 Mariners 18
Majors	
Giants	9 Cardinals 9
Orioles	6 Pirates 0
Dodgers	1 Rangers 8
Seniors	
White Sox	7 Red Sox 7

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## SPORTS

## S. Australian wicketkeeper sets world record

MELBOURNE, Australia, Dec 10. (Reuters) South Australian wicketkeeper Darren Berry has set a world record in first-class cricket by not conceding a bye while 2,133 runs were scored against his team.

Berry established the mark on his 20th

birthday today during the third day of the four-day Sheffield Shield match against Victoria.

Former England wicketkeeper Keith Andrew set the previous record by not conceding a bye in the course of 2,132 runs being scored against his county Northam-

ptonshire in 1965.

Berry, who made his first-class debut for South Australia on November 3, said he was unable of his impending feat until an Adelaide reporter told him he had broken the Australian record during a recent match against New Zealand and was

within sight of the world record.

"I wasn't too worried about it," Berry said. "I had an idea Victoria needed around 230 or 240 but I didn't know it had happened until (South Australia captain) David Hookes came up to me and said 'well done'."

## Pakistan restrict India to 324

## Imran claims 350th Test wicket



Imran: 5th player in Test history to take 350 wickets

SLAIKOT, Pakistan, Dec 10. (Reuters) Pakistan, spearheaded by left-arm fast bowler Wasim Akram, captured India's last seven wickets for 143 as crowd problems and bad weather curtailed the second day of the fourth and final cricket Test today.

Wasim finished with five for 101 to help reduce India from their overnight 181 for three to 324 all out in their first innings.

Pakistan were 23 for one when bad light and rain forced the players off 65 minutes before the scheduled close of a day on which a total of 100 minutes were lost.

Playing time was reduced earlier by rain just before tea which followed an incident in which the crowd pelted Indian boundary fielders Sachin Tendulkar with fruit at the start of Pakistan's first innings. Play was stopped briefly but a public appeal restored calm.

Wasim, who took two wickets on the first day, completed his haul by removing 16-year-old Tendulkar for a neat 35. Kapil Dev for a brisk 27 and last man Maninder Singh.

The initial breakthrough was made by fast bowler Waqar Younis, who trapped the prolific Sanjay Manjrekar lbw with his fourth delivery of the morning before the batsman added to his overnight 72.

Pakistan captain Imran Khan struck the next blow, capturing his 350th Test wicket with a magnificent one-handed return catch to dismiss Ravi Shastri for 20.

Imran became the fifth player in Test history to reach the landmark. Richard Hadlee, Ian Botham, Dennis Lillee and Kapil Dev are ahead of him.

Wasim had Tendulkar lbw and bowled Kapil Dev off an inside edge, making India 289 for seven at lunch, and Pakistan's pace bowlers wrapped up the innings 50 minutes after the interval.

## Scoreboard

INDIA first innings (overnight 181 for three)

K. Srikanth lbw b Wasim Akram	10
N. Sidhu c Rameez b Wasim Akram	12
S. Manjrekar lbw b Younis	72
M. Azharuddin run out	52
R. Shastri c and b Imran	20
S. Tendulkar lbw b Wasim Akram	35
Kapil Dev b Wasim Akram	27
M. Prabhakar c Shoaib b Imran	25
K. More c Zakir b Younis	15
Maninder Singh c Abbas b Wasim Akram	8
V. Razeed not out	6
Extras (b-8 lb-14 nb-14 w-8)	42
Fall of wickets: 1-20 2-39 3-167 4-181 5-255 6-251 7-270 8-296 9-314	
Bowling: Wasim Akram 28.2-6-101-5, Waqar Younis 21-2-88-2, Zakir Khan 16-3-59-0, Imran 17-3-61-2, Abdul Qadir 2-0-0	
PAKISTAN first innings	
Aamer Malik lbw b Prabhakar	9
Rameez Raja not out	9
Shoaib Mohammad not out	3
Extras (b-2)	2
Total (one wicket)	23
Fall of wicket: 1-11	
To bat: Javed Miandad, Salim Malik, Imran Khan (captain), Nadeem Abbasi, Wasim Akram, Abdul Qadir, Zakir Khan, Waqar Younis	
Bowling (to date): Kapil Dev 6-3-7-0, Prabhakar 5-1-14-1	

## Lankans frustrate Aussies

BRISBANE, Australia, Dec 10. (Reuters) Sri Lanka painstakingly reached their highest score in three cricket Tests against Australia today, adding 194 in six hours to end the third day of the first Test on 275 for six.

Arvin de Silva anchored Sri Lanka with an unbeaten 75 but their progress in reply to Australia's first innings of 367 was at times painful to watch.

Australia's pace attack was low on luck and ideas on a hot day that started with only 50 runs being scored in the first session as the Sri Lanka batsmen, guilty of throwing their wickets away in pre-Test tour matches, concentrated on reaching the follow-on target of 168.

But the arrival of captain Arjuna Ranatunga at the fall of the fourth wicket injected spice into the game. Ranatunga and De Silva added 53 to take their side past the follow-on mark before Ranatunga was lbw to Merv Hughes for 25.

De Silva, who escaped just before lunch when Hughes dropped a simple caught and bowled chance, carried on the attack following Ranatunga's dismissal, hooking Carl Rackemann into the crowd for six.

Rackemann's dismissal of Athula Samarasekera, well caught low down in the gully by Tom Moody for 18, put De Silva back on the defensive and he took an hour to move from 60 to 70.

Shortly before the close Sri Lanka passed their previous best against Australia, 271 in Kandy six years ago. The previous two Tests have ended in innings victories for Australia.

Australia's four-man pace attack, with medium-pace Moody playing a secondary role, was again found lacking following its disappointing absence of penetration in New Zealand's second innings during the draw Test last month in Perth.

They frequently beat the bat but did not consistently trouble any of the Sri Lankans. Captain Allan Border's attempt to change the tempo ended in failure, his two overs of slow left-



Arvin de Silva

arm costing 15 runs.

Australia were frustrated for 163 minutes by nightwatchman Asoka de Silva before he threw his wicket away trying to hit Terry Alderman out of the ground. Asoka de Silva was fourth man out for 22 shortly after lunch.

Alderman has taken two for 59 off 28 overs while Rackemann, who had Asanka Gurusinghe caught behind for 43 before lunch, has collected two for 51 off 25.

## Scoreboard

AUSTRALIA first innings 367

SRI LANKA first innings (overnight 81 for two wickets)

R. Mahanama lbw b Alderman	5
D. Ranatunga c Waugh	40
B. Lawson	40
A. Gurusinghe c Healy	18
R. Rackemann	43
Asoka de Silva b Alderman	22
Arvin de Silva not out	75
A. Ranatunga lbw Hughes	25
A. Samarasekera c Moody	18
R. Rackemann	18
R. Ratnayake not out	22
Extras (lb-20 w-2 nb-3)	25
Fall of wickets: 1-10 2-80 3-114 4-148 5-201 6-238	
To bat: Ganihi Wickramasinghe, Graeme Labrooy, Champaka Ramaniyake	
Bowling to date: Alderman 28-9-59-2 (3nb), Lawson 28-8-42-1 (1w), Rackemann 25-6-51-2, Hughes 23-7-1-1 (1w), Moody 14-8-9-0, Border 2-0-15-0	

## Bayern outlast Homburg

BONN, Dec 10. (Reuters) Bayern Munich beat Homburg 3-1 yesterday to go to the top of West Germany's First Division soccer table while the nation's three UEFA Cup teams crashed to defeat.

Bayern's Scottish striker Alan McInally scored two goals and Yugoslav Radmilo Mihalovic hit the other but it was a match the defending champions were fortunate to win.

Lowly Homburg had far more scoring chances than Bayern and were unlucky to find the net only once, through Argentine Sergio Maciel.

The win left Munich level on 27 points from 20 games with Eintracht Frankfurt and Bayer Leverkusen but ahead on goal difference.

Eintracht beat Fortuna Dueseldorf with second half goals from Uwe Bein and Ralf Falkenmeyer while Leverkusen drew 1-1 with Borussia Moenchengladbach on Friday. Soviet striker Igor Belanov scored for Borussia and Jorge Jorjino for Leverkusen.

Successful UEFA teams Cologne, Werder Bremen and Hamburg were shaken out of their Euphoria.

Cologne went down at home 1-0 to Bayer Uerdingen, who scored through Siegfried Reich. Bremen fell 4-1 away to Borussia Dortmund whose goals came from Frank Mill, Norbert Dickel, Michael Lusch and Andy Moeller. New Zealander Wynford Rufer hit Werder's goal.

Hamburg, woefully weak in defence, crashed 4-1 at home to Bochum. The visitors triumphed through Michael Rzechacek, with two goals, Frank Benatielli and Uwe Leifeld. Hamburg's goal came from Detlev Dammeier.

## Nigeria raps Fifa move

Lagos, Dec 10. (Reuters) Nigeria yesterday called the International Football Federation (Fifa) decision to take away its right to host the 1991 under-20 World Soccer Championship an affront to the continent of Africa.

State radio said the number two in the Military government, Vice-admiral Augustus Aikhomu, accused Fifa of introducing a colonial mentality into the game.

The move - punishment for flourishing player age limits - was "an affront not only to Nigeria but to the whole of Africa," it quoted him as saying in an interview.

He hinted that Nigeria might try to organise an African boycott of Fifa events, but said the government would await formal notification of the football body's ruling before taking any action.

Fifa general secretary SEPP Blatter said in Rome on Friday Nigeria was to be punished for fielding over-aged players in this year's under-20 competition in Scotland.

The country would be disqualified for two years from entering events with age limits, ruling it out of under-17 and under-20 tournaments, and the Olympic games.

Portugal would host the under-20 event in 1991 instead of in 1993 as originally scheduled.

## SPORTS BRIEFS

## French soccer

PARIS, Dec 10. (Reuters) French First Division soccer results today.

Metz	3	Marseille	2
Montpellier	2	St Germain	0
Toulon	2	Mulhouse	1
Nice	1	Lyon	0
Lille	2	Canes	1
Toulouse	1	Auxerre	1
Racing Paris	2	Nantes	1
Caen	2	Brest	1
Sochaux	2	Bordeaux	0

Played on Saturday:  
St-Etienne 0 Monaco 2

## Italian soccer

ROME, Dec 10. (Reuters) Results of Italian First Division matches played today.

Ascoli	0	Lazio	0
Atalanta	1	Udinese	0
Bari	1	Napoli	0
Bologna	2	Lecco	0
Verona	1	Fiorentina	0
Inter	1	Genoa	0
Juventus	1	Cesena	1
Roma	3	Cremonesse	2
Sampdoria	1	AC Milan	1

## Frost triumphs

SUN CITY, South Africa, Dec 10. (Reuters) David Frost of South Africa won the richest prize in golf today when he captured the \$1 million winner's cheque in the Sun City Challenge.

## Tomba hurt

VAL D'ISERE, France, Dec 10. (AP) Italian skiing star Alberto Tomba broke his collarbone in a fall in today's Super Giant Slalom race and will be out of competition at least three weeks, his business manager said.

## Henning wins

VAL D'ISERE, France, Dec 10. (AP) Sweden's Niklas Henning scored a surprising victory today in the first Super Giant Slalom race of the men's World Cup season.

## GCC race

KUWAIT, Dec 10. (Kuna) Kuwait university is to organise tomorrow the second GCC cross country race, in which GCC university students will take part.

## YRC tourney

THE Youth Recreation Centre (YRC) Football Tournament, organised for KIFF affiliated clubs, will begin on Friday, Dec 22. The last date for entries is Dec 15 before 10 00 am. The draw will be held at 10.00 am on Dec 15 at the Caravan Restaurant, Salfia. For further information contact Patrick. Tel 4712903.

## BRIDGE

RESULTS of the Hubara Bridge Club game held at the Hubara Centre on Saturday:

N/S  
1. Nabil Akel & Narendra Shah  
Sharing second: Saad Suleiman & John and Shanti & John  
E/W  
1. Salman Ali & George  
2. Aurora & Kamil  
3. Lollo Murthwaite & Dona Materny  
Results of Sheraton Bridge Club marathon game played on Friday:  
1. Rita & El Baz  
2. Abedin & Jaggi  
3. Nabil Akel & Lollo Murthwaite  
Results of the SAS Bridge Club game played on Sunday:  
1. Mrs R. El-Kassim & Mrs Malas  
2. Mrs R. Abboushi & Mrs N. Araabi  
3. Mrs R. Ayyad & Mrs B. Michail

## Jahra overcome Kazma

JAHRA continued to prove that they are the surprise team of this season's Kuwait Football League when they beat Kazma 1-0 yesterday to remain on top of the First Division. They are unbeaten in all the five games they have played so far.

In earlier matches, Jahra trounced Qadisiya 2-1, Arabi 1-0, Yarmouk 3-0 and Kazma 1-0 in a row to collect 9 points of the maximum 10. Jahra was promoted to the First Division only last year. They are having the leadership of the First Division for the first time in their history.

In another match played yesterday, Al Kuwait survived an all-

out onslaught by Qadisiya but came out winners after an own goal by Qadisiya, who were only themselves to blame because of the number of easy chances they missed throughout the match. They pressed hard throughout the match and in the second half intensified their attacks in an attempt to score the equaliser.

The only goal came in the 43rd minute of the first half, when Qadisiya 15-year-old player, Ahmad Theyab tried to send the ball back to his goalkeeper but the ball went over his head and straight into the net.

Two matches were played on Saturday. Al Naser beat Salmiya

1-0 and Yarmouk trounced Al Arabi 2-0. Salmiya finished their fifth game of the League without scoring a single goal and they conceded one goal to Al Naser. It was the second consecutive defeat for Al Arabi, the defending champions by two lowly teams.

At the end of the fifth week of the League, Jahra is still at the top of the table with 9 points, Kuwait in second place with 7 points. The remaining six teams have four points each but Qadisiya and Kazma are third on goal difference, Salmiya fifth, Yarmouk sixth, Al Arabi seventh and Al Naser last.

## McEnroe and Grabb stay on title course

LONDON, Dec 10. (Reuters) Patrick McEnroe looked set to follow in the footsteps of older brother John after winning through to the final of the Masters doubles tennis championship with partner Jim Grabb yesterday in another impressive performance.

The American pair, who beat South Africans Pieter Aldrich and Danie Visser 6-4 6-1 6-3 in their semifinal, have dropped only one set all week at the \$277,500 championships at the Royal Albert Hall.

John McEnroe won the Masters doubles seven times with Peter Fleming. But one title that has always eluded him is the French Open doubles, a crown which Patrick won with Grabb in June.

Aldrich and Visser took a 3-0 lead after Grabb dropped his service in the second game. But the American pair won the next five games and never allowed the South Africans to take control again as they finished the match in 97 minutes.

In today's final Grabb and McEnroe were to face Wimbledon champions Anders Jarryd of Sweden and John Fitzgerald of Australia who, like the Americans, were unbeaten in the round robin stage of the tournament.

## Tang upsets Han for crown

SINGAPORE, Dec 10. (AP) Tang Jihong upset fellow Chinese Han Aiping, the world's top-ranked woman player, 12-11, 12-10 today in the women's singles final of the World Grand Prix Badminton Championship.

"It was age against youth," said the 26-year-old Han, who added that this was her last major tournament before she retires as a player early next year.

The 20-year-old Tang said, "I am happy to have won. I went all out to win. I don't know what happened to her."

Han, wiping sweat from her face after the 28-minute match, said, "I am growing old. That is why I want to stop. It would have been great to have won this and retired, but I just could not do it and she was faster."

Tang received \$6,250 in prize money and Han \$4,000.

Han led in the first set until Tang caught up at 7-7. Tang went ahead 9-7, Han caught up at 9-9, and Tang finally won 12-11.

The second set was also a thriller, with plenty of smashes and rallies.

In the mixed doubles final, Indonesia's Eddy Hartono and Verawaty Fajrin defeated Thomas Lund and Pernille Dupont of Denmark 12-15, 15-7, 15-4 in 49 minutes.

The Indonesians received \$2,312 each and the Danes \$2,062 each.

Verawaty, clutching a giant-sized check, said, "this is the last major tournament for this year and it is good to go home with the victory."

## Ewing helps Knicks score easy win over Celtics

NEW YORK, Dec 10. (AP) Patrick Ewing scored 20 of his 26 points in the third quarter last night as the New York Knicks broke open a close game to defeat the Boston Celtics 124-92.

It was the Knicks' eighth straight win at Madison Square Garden this season. They are the only National Basketball Association team other than Denver with a perfect record at home.

Ewing scored 19 points in a span of 8:43, giving the Knicks an 81-64 lead with a minute left in the third period. The Knicks extended the margin to as many as 34 points in the fourth quarter.

Larry Bird scored 25 points for Boston.

Bullets 103, Lakers 101

Mark Alarie hit a driving layup with 22 seconds left and the Washington Bullets snapped the Los Angeles Lakers' three-game winning streak with a 103-101 victory.

Alarie's shot game Washington a 103-101 lead and Ledell Eackles hit a free throw for the final seconds of the Lakers' Michael Cooper hit two 3-point attempts.

Jeff Malone scored 26 points and Bernard King 24 for Washington, which snapped a two-game losing streak. James Worthy had 26 points for the Lakers.

Hawks 104, Timberwolves 81

Dominique Wilkins scored 33 points, including seven in a tie-



Ewing: came on strong in the third quarter

breaking 13-0 run at the start of the third quarter, as the Atlanta Hawks posted their sixth straight win, defeating the Minnesota Timberwolves 104-91.

The expansion Timberwolves led 55-49 before Atlanta scored the last six points before half-

time. After the streak beginning the third quarter gave Atlanta a 68-55 lead, Minnesota never got closer than 10 points the rest of the way.

Minnesota's Tony Campbell was ejected from the game for a flagrant foul.

Doug West led the Timberwolves with 23 points.

Nuggets 106, Hornets 93

Alex English scored 25 points and the surging Denver Nuggets limited Charlotte to three field goals in the fourth quarter for a 106-93 victory, handing the Hor-

nets their seventh consecutive loss.

Kelly Tripucka led Charlotte with 23 points.

The Hornets played without leading scorer Rex Chapman, who was out with a bruised thigh.

Flows 121, Pacers 93

Isiah Thomas scored 20 of his 30 points in the first half to lead the Detroit Pistons past the NBA Central Division-leading Indiana Pacers 121-93. The loss snapped the Pacers' five-game winning streak and brought the Pistons to within a half-game of first place.

Detroit outscored the Pacers 27-7 over the first 6:09 of the fourth period and led by as many as 30 points as they coasted to the win.

Detlef Schrempf led Indiana with 28 points.

Bulls 125, 76ers 105

Michael Jordan scored 15 of his 29 points in the third period and Scottie Pippen added 20 to lead the Chicago Bulls over the Philadelphia 76ers 125-105.

The Bulls led 54-45 at the half, then went on an 8-2 burst to begin the third period. Then Jordan took over. His steal and layup with 1:41 left in the quarter gave Chicago its biggest second-half lead, 87-65.

Derek Smith led the Sixers with 29 points.

Spurs 108, Nets 92

David Robinson scored 26 points against New Jersey, lead-

ing San Antonio to its sixth consecutive victory.

With Robinson leading the way with 12 points in the quarter, the Spurs pulled away for good in the third period, extending a 10-point halftime lead to 68-69.

Sean Elliott had 20 points for San Antonio, as did teammate Terry Cummings. Dennis Hopson led the Nets with 21 points.

Jazz 104, Rockets 90

Karl Malone scored 25 points and Utah held Houston to just eight points in the first quarter.

John Stockton added 16 points and 10 assists for the Jazz, but the story of the game was Utah's defense. The Jazz have won four straight and have held opponents under 100 points in all four victories.

The Rockets, who have dropped three straight, could do little against Utah's tight defense. Akom Olatunwo made eight of 21 shots from the field and finished with 19 points and Derrick Chievous had 15, but Houston was unable to sustain any offense, especially in the first quarter when the Rockets were outscored 25-8.

Results

Atlanta	104	Minnesota	91
Denver	106	Charlotte	93
Detroit	121	Indiana	93
New York	124	Boston	92
Washington	103	L.A. Lakers	101
Chicago	125	Philadelphia	105
San Antonio	109	New Jersey	92
Utah	121	Houston	89
Seattle	104	L.A. Clippers	100
Cleveland	108	Sacramento	101



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